

HOME

ISSUE

Dozerdust

VOL 2. NO. 18.

WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS.

MAY 20. 1944.

AN EVENTFUL YEAR.

THIS issue of Dozerdust has been certified fit for adult consumption.

FOR advertising space on Boilerhouse Stack see P.J. Kenna. Two top sections reserved for advocates of "Freedom to call a man's soul his own". Apply for beautifully illustrated booklet on rates etc.

SGT. Norm Stanley has been seen squeezing oranges into a glass so often that the "soft drink" pretex is becoming suspicious. Wouldn't be "Jungle Juice" would it Norm?

THE mail before Christmas Ray Ashby had over eighty sacks of parcels to sort. He still has hair to part !!

"SHORTY" Hampton may be photographed in his suit or hat for a photographic display of hat mannequins to be held in Auckland shortly. "TPH" Buckley may qualify too.

"JUST LIKE BEING AT HOME" is how some of the lads describe a night in Tom Armon's tent when he has the Uke going. No, home never was like "this".

"BLACKOUT" Ellery says his girl friend will be on the wharf to meet him. But which one ??????????????????

HAVE we changed? Ah! You will be surprised. A transformation has taken place - the mess up the Garden of Eden was small time to this. Consider! :::: There is not a man but will darn his own socks, wash his own shirts, scrub his own trousers - shorten them too, if necessary - make his own bed and sweep out his room. All these things he will do as a matter of course and, enjoy it. Think what this is going to mean to you! :::: NO more drudgery at night over great holes in his socks; no fear and worry over Monday when you spend hours over the wash-tub; no backbreaking afternoon hanging clothes on the line - no danger of swallowing clothes pegs. No more salesman pestering you to buy washing machines; no worry over the right kind of soap to buy. You can leave it all to Dad!! ANOTHER change you will welcome is that over here we have learnt to live out of tins. Think what this will mean to you! If you have been out to a water polo game, a wrestling match or a football game, all you'll have to do is buy a few cans of food on your way home. You'll have a first rate meal for him. He'll enjoy it. It will remind him of the good old days in New Caledonia. :::: IT may be a bit of a bore listening to him, as he darns the socks, irons the clothes & sweeps out the rooms, for he's bound to tell you how he did it back among the Naiculis. But you must agree that you will have a model (working) husband.

"KANAKA" BOBSON asked us to do him a special favour by sending a message to "the one and only one". Its a ticklish job. Well, here goes: Sweetheart -- you may weight twelve stone, but you are still my little bundle of euddles. I dream about you duckie; sometimes I talk about in you my sleep. I'll be home to see you next May perhaps. XXXXXX's.

WE also promised to send messages for Jimmy Fleming, Willie Orail, Ernie Clark, Ned Sainsbury, and Maurie Corrie, but we have forgotten which Jean, Joan, Mary and Phyllis was to get the message. There are also the married chaps - we may send Ced Reid's message to Jim Hawthorne's wife. Whoopee! No. We'll send love and kisses to all, and play safe.

JACK BIRCHALL "one of our best winch and hatchmen" has not lost his smile in the wilderness.

IF the Wharf lads were not in such an inaccessible spot, Jimmy Scott would be in great danger of losing his table tennis championship title. A doubles tourney is to commence soon in Wharf Circles.

WALLY Hobson has put on two stone this year!!

MAY 1943 - MAY 1944

IN REVIEW...

MAJOR. E. BLACKER

MAJOR S. E. WEST

OC CONSTRUCTION COY.

DCRE WORKS HQ

WRITES

WRITES

FOR some members of Works Construction Coy. the year May 19-43 -44 is not the first spent overseas; for many others it followed a long period of training in N.Z. and for some, but for a brief training period, marked a sharp transition from civil life to "Active Service".::: I do not think New Zealand could have gathered together in one Unit a better array of technical ability than has been assembled in this Company of ours which, after its initial growing pains, built itself into a good team.::: I am aware that many of our members would have preferred to have taken a more active part in the forward areas, but I think you will all recognise, when all the circumstances are taken into consideration, that you were the right men in the right place.::: HAD it been necessary, as it might have been, I am sure that you would have done equally well in the forward areas had you been called upon.::: I have no hesitation in saying that the conduct of the Unit both at work and at play has been creditable both to the Kiwi Force and to New Zealand. I hope that the year that has passed has cemented friendships that will continue in the future and that our experiences here will give us a wider understanding of New Zealand and the Pacific.

LIEUT. D. BROOKER

ENGINEERS STORES.

WRITES.

WITH the approach of the end of our first year of operation, Engineer Stores can look back on twelve months of hard work with considerable satisfaction.::: NO part of our organisation has been expected to do so much with so little. But in spite of numerous difficulties we have been able to build up from nothing and provide a very important service both for Works Service Units and other Units of the Force.::: I would like to thank the numerous members of Works Services who have assisted in doing this at various times and also Sgts Lindsay, Chapman, Burge and Bark who have always worked untiringly.::: WE thank all those members of Works Services who have given us their cooperation, which is so essential in providing an Engineers Stores Service.

KRONIC CARRYING COY. LTD.

MESSRS Krönast and Rye, who are now established in the carrying business, announce that their war effort will consist of free

THE Units of Works Service NZE - Engineer Stores, the Construction Coy and Wharf Operating Unit - can look back on the past twelve months with pride. A great deal of work has been well done - in fact one hears that some jobs are too well done. This is rather refreshing when one considers that most criticism in the Army has the opposite flavour.::: IN carrying out these jobs there naturally have been some ups and downs, and on looking around one can see other jobs which, perhaps, should have been done . . . but our worth to the Force should be judged not on what is yet to do, but on what has been done in spite of the difficulties.::: YOUR folk in N.Z. may well be proud of your efforts. There has been no glamour, but Works Services has lived up to its name, in that both the "work" and the "services" provided for all Units have made and are making life more pleasant for all members of the N.Z.E.F.I.P.::: AS the head of your Service I have received both praise and kicks . . . for the praise my thanks are due to each of you individually and all of you as a team . . . as for the kicks, well they have been worth it.

AN APOLOGY.

WE regret that it has not been possible to obtain a word from Captain F.J. Clark, OC of the Wharf Operating Unit before going to press. We had hoped to make a trip to their HQ, but did not find it possible. We shall reserve two full pages for the 1944-45 issue.

OUR THANKS.

WE have to thank Jim Craig for his sketch, Ray Barnaby for reproduction of "Dozerdust", Gordon Larsen and P.J. Kenna for the lettering, Ted Knowling for the article on

transport of all men in uniform to points of embarkation. This is a splendid gesture from so young a concern. We hope that the Hon. P. Webb will extend them his customary acknowledgement.

WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS COMPLETE

FIRST YEAR OF ACTIVITIES : LOOKING

BACK TO WAIOURU.

WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS are now twelve months old. On April 29th the "Advance Party" arrived in New Caledonia and prepared the present site for a camp for the main body which arrived on Sunday May 23rd 1943.

FOR the first few weeks everyone experienced a bout of homesickness which was not without an element of irritation through absence of tools and equipment which it was thought had proceeded the Unit to New Caledonia. Shortages of axes, hammers and shovels gave rise to a good deal of improvising. In looking back over the period it has to be admitted that, apart from an occasional scolding, adjustments to the new life were soon made.

Beginnings.

FIRST to arrive in Waiouru was Capt. W. P. Boyd, Lieut. F. J. Clarke, and Lieut. D. Brooker. When we arrived," said Captain Boyd, "no one knew anything about us, so we had to hunt around and finally found ourselves in Area 7." On the 12th. Lieut. R.R. Torric and 2/Lieut. J.K. Scott and on the 13th Lietus W. Wise & S. Tremain. LATE on Tuesday 12th. a contingent arrived from Papakura, and on the 13th the South Island quota arrived. Personnel had been chosen earlier in the month, some having been taken out of Units as early as March 43, while others were marched straight in from civil life. A number of picked men, "Earthworms" they termed themselves, were

were transferred from Aerodrom Construction Units - among them men who had seen "very active service" in other theatres of war.

TRAINING.

APRIL 15th. found training well under way, and by May 19th the training schedule which covered range work in rifle, tommy gun, bren and grenade throwing had been completed.

Recreation.

WHILE the solid side of camp life went ahead, the recreational activities were not neglected. As early as April 28th. a Social Committee had been set up consisting of Sprs. Ced Reid, E. Clark, J. Gardiner, T. Skelton, E. Sainsbury, W. Charleton, A. Bluck and W. Clarke. The Committee was an active one. Card tournaments were organised and a dance held in the Orderly Room on May 5th, which was followed by another on the 15th, and a further one planned for the 22nd.

WHARF UNIT.

FIRST member of the Works Wharf Operating Unit to be in Waiouru was Spr. Jack Burchill. On April 24th. six members of 3rd Div. Reinforcements were transferred to Capt. Boyd's care until Wharf Operating got under way. Shortly after other members of the Unit who had been on a course in Trentham arrived.

ON the 25th of April Lieut. R. Gilmour was marched in, and he took the Wharf Operating personnel under his care until the arrival of Capt. E. Blacker, OC of the Wharf Unit.

THE MOVE.

BY Sunday May the 16th. rumour had it that "we would be on the move any minute but it was not until Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock that word came through to entrain that night at 9 o'clock. Quartermaster Sutherland wonders how he got through the afternoon. But the train was mad. And by 11 o'clock on the Wednesday morning all were aboard the ship. The day was spent in changing money, working out the dollar currency, and in being introduced to the "chow line". As the ship pulled out on the Thursday morning at 6.45. A.M., Sgt. Aim looked across at Stanley Bay and said: "There goes my weekend leave". Ray Bernaby, Johnny Mason and Norm James acted as guides to most of the party on board, describing the receding coastline which they knew well.

THE ARRIVAL.

THE ship dropped anchor in Noumea on the 22nd at 3.40, but it was not until the following day morning at 9.40 that the party clambered aboard

GISBORNE LAD HAPPY!

SAPPER STAN WHITE who never omits an opportunity to get in a sly piece of propaganda on the charms of his native city, Gisborne, says he is as happy as a lark in Works Service - in fact, happier than he has ever been in the army before. In our present camp he finds, he says, all the minor charms such as quietness, twitt ring birds, rain, rough roads and few pictures. If only the girls round these parts as beautiful as the ones at home, he would be content to stay here as a coloniser. Well, Stan, you never know your luck.

Reading books in New Caledonia while not altogether frowned upon, is regarded as a waste of time.

DOLLAR DIFFICULTIES.

DIFFICULTIES arising out of appreciating the dollar standard on which 3rd. Div. Kiwis have been working were emphasised today by Electrician Sid Diamond who remarked that every time he spent a dollar - bang went six shillings, something he is just beginning to realise. "A man goes to the Canteen to buy a carton of cigarettes, and with a salesman like Don Hollaway behind the counter, a chap comes away with ten dollars worth of stuff" said Sid, and he continued, it is not till we stop to think that we realise that ten dollars is over three pound. We rate the dollar as no more than a couple of bob, whereas we have a pretty good idea of the value of a ten bob note which has a definite buying value. But the dollar seems small time," he concluded. This point of view is fairly common among Kiwis, and only now are beginning to realise that they have paid more than "ceiling price for a good many articles in the course of the twelve months.

"I'm looking forward to the day when I shall be called 'Mr. Radisich'" says Tony. Incidentally, ask him how he enjoyed cooking at the Kiwi Club.

Leo Inns nightly serenade is reported to be most soothing - to Leo.

HOUSING SCHEME IN NEW CALEDONIA

PRIOR to the arrival of the French in New Caledonia the natives lived in conical huts which only survive today as exhibits in the various native villages. They are pictured on the pre-war New Caledonian stamps of pre-war days and were constructed on a circular butt, say twenty feet in diameter with a steeply pitched thatch roof. The better examples were well constructed with a solid centre pole as thick as a sailing ship's mast and about 18 feet high.

THE CEREMONY.

THE raising of the centre pole was a ceremony in keeping with our laying of foundation stones and the whole tribe assembled, feasted, danced and in spasms worked. For ropes strong vines or aerial roots were used, and the around the centre pole sturdy uprights six to eight feet high were placed at intervals of about five feet in a circle of twenty feet diameter. Th these uprights were lashed horizontal braces, and the rafters were in turn fastened to the horizontals and joined to the peak of the centre pole.

MORE VINES.

The spaces between the rafters were interlaced with tough vines and the roof was thatched, first with a raupu-like rush and then with thatching grass. The peak of the roof was usually finished with some ornamental shape in woven grass, or a carved figure.

NO WINDOWS

THE walls were made of several thicknesses of naiouli bark fastened with thick vines and the roof was made overhanging the wall by about three feet to keep the weather from beating directly on the walls. Windows were not provided, and a low square doorway was covered with matting hangings. The raised door sill was crudely carved to represent an upward fiery figure to guard against strangers entering with concealed weapons of offense.

DRY AND DARK.

THE completed structure was dark, but snug, and if a fire was needed then it was just inside the doorway and smoke was left to find its own way out. (see page II)

N. Z. DONS LONG TROUSERS :

CANBERRA AGREEMENT MARKS

NEW AGE IN PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

IN this, his third article, the " Gook ", a well known writer on international affairs now attached to an Allied Force, discusses the importance of the Canberra Agreement, and what it may mean to you.

SGT. SAVED FROM
INSANITY. WO II
S. MITCHINSON ARR-
IVED IN TIME .

WE learnt this week that our poetic Sgt., Peter Wingfield, went into a tailspin which led him, in his own words " to the brink of insanity ", when WO-II S. Mitchinson arrived in time to effect a brilliant save. When approached on the incident Capt. W.P. Boyd, CO of the Detachment, had no comment to make beyond a vague reference to " poetry ". Ray Barnaby is thought to have let the " cat out of the bag " by hinting that Peter had been reading his own poems. Having read several of Peter's poems, we can assure our readers that we suffered no ill effects. A reasonable explanation of the temporary lapse (we hasten to assure our readers that the lapse was purely temporary) from sanity was no more than a passing mood. At the moment Peter is eagerly anticipating his return to N.Z. , and an early departure to the European Front.

" KANAKA JEWELLER " Jim Paterson-Kane has joined the " Naciuli Numbakulis "; Alan Mattews, Rupert Robbie, & Norm Matthews and Co. Effect on designs feared by old K. J's.

THE almost superior disdain with which N. Z. and Australia looked across the Tasman at each other has always struck me as a peculiar type of suburban snobbery. Separated by thousands of miles from the home of your civilisation, having little in common with Europe, and less with the rigid customs of the old world, you nevertheless made little of the heritage you had in common; you rarely pooled your experience on Pacific affairs, and you gave little thought to your Pacific neighbours . To an outsider, such isolation is difficult to understand, and it was so deeprooted that it took a world war to draw you together.

WHAT OF TOMORROW ?

IT is interesting to speculate on the extent to which you will cooperate in matters of mutual interest in the future. One does not have to be an expert in power politics to know that the New Zealand and Australia that emerge from this war will be far removed from what they were in the pre-war days. Your isolation is gone. The rise of the Asiatic people across the Pacific should indicate to you that the world your children will inherit will be much more difficult and complex than it was in 1939. You will find that Social Security legislation & the 40 hour week, important as they have been, will have to take second place to far bigger questions.

A HISTORIC DAY

JANUARY 21 1944.

THE Chicago " Tribune " described the Canberra Agreement as " ambitious . It is more than that; it is moulded on the heroic scale and touch with classical greatness. The region covers from New Guinea to the Gilberts, and from the Gilberts to the Chatham Islands. The arc in square miles makes New Zealand look like a village park, and the number of people involved reduces N.Z. population to a pin point by comparison. Nevertheless N.Z. and Australia have undertaken to act as Godfathers to this vast area and group of peoples who differ amongst themselves -- in history and culture. The experience of the Kiwis in the South Pacific area should give them some conception of the gap that separates New Zealand's social life from that of the islanders.

THE COST.

THE two Govts. will be advised by a " South Seas Regional Commission which will deal with all matters of trade, native and military strategy. This means that New Zealand will have to divert some of the best of her administrators from domestic affairs to that of the Commission; she will have to devote a portion of her national income to the Islands, and not expect material returns for the outlay for some years; she will have to supply her quota of an navy and air force for a number of years. She will have to supply engineers and workmen to construct roads and buildings. This may lead to a decrease in social legislation or perhaps a lowering of the standard of living. It will certainly mean a more serious approach to your social and economic affairs. If your average citizen in the future de
(Cont. page 10. col 3)

WO II. Gordon Barry handed us the following.

" YEARS ago a country teacher friend boarded at a house where they had provided an old book on bees in place of the usual toilet paper. She told me that it was most embarrassing the way people would suddenly remark at the table, ' Read such an interesting thing about bees the other day ' - only to stop in confusion in remembering where it was read "

THE " Cookhouse Jewellery Coy. Ltd. " has now got well under way and has a very fine stiletto, a shell pin box, a plane (futurisitic design) and other odds and ends to its credit. Manager Steve Nash hopes " Kanaka Jewellers will not take offense at fine work of new Coy. " Steve says the stiletto will be useful for opening bills on his return.

" DARKIE " Wilson has a story of an overheard railway bridge he almost carried away. Another " thieving Kiwi " !!

" RED RAG " Morrissey now celebrates his birthday monthly. Contact with American speed up system responsible, it is understood. Ask him how he came to earn the nickname.

THIS week's quiz: Who is the " Dark Boy " the " Maori Boy " ? Prize , one tin of bully beef. See the Q.M.

THIS IS A " HOMER "

ANCIENT HISTORY.

THIS is the story of Works Service " Advance Party " which reached New Caledonia just over twelve months ago. It consisted of thirty six intrepid men who feared no danger, as they entered into the land of dehydration, spam, chile con carne and milk powder. Elsewhere you will find their names; here I want to confine myself to their adventures.

THEY were a colourful party. There was a cherubic faced youth who was to be in charge of " sport "; there was a tall wisp of a man who swayed back and forth as he walked - he was the bulldozer expert. A sinister, heavily moustached upper lipped young man was camouflage experts. There was Petah, a poet, an odd old bird; there was " Little Alex " an architect - not one of those vulgar fellows who qualify through the back door - who was to design special tropical buildings. Finally there was Tommy and Willie the cooks: they had never cooked before, but what need of trained cooks in a land of oranges, bananas and breadfruit.

ON a beautiful May morning this happy band set forth to a camp of hot and cold showers, long rows of trucks, huts and a babbling brook where great poems are made. Accounts of the voyage vary. While it was not idyllic, it certainly ^{was} not a time of that " bloody awfulness " in which Petah called for his " too solid flesh to melt " as it almost did some months " latak "

THE arrival was on a " stinking wet and windy afternoon ! They immediately boarded a truck of questionable age that wheezed and bumped valiantly along in an effort

to dodge the " Dump Heap " which all too soon claimer.

THE first two nights were spent in a spot where thick sticky mud reached the boot tops and a biting welcome from many mosquitoes greeted our travel stained heroes. They would not entertain the notion that " their camp was like this tented, muddy and dismal hole ". They were going to a " camp ". Yes, they were.

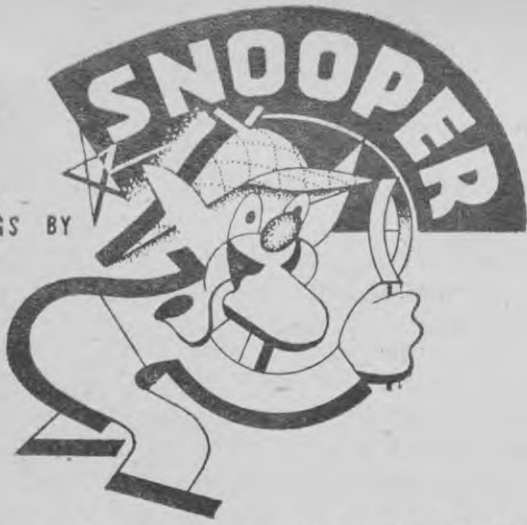
IT was almost dark when they arrived. In fact, in their enthusiasm they had passed it. Had not been for the Major in charge of the party they may never have found it. Such a delightful spot. Not a building in sight for miles around; human foot had never trod there before.

SPACE does not permit the story of how the cherubic one had to make a wheelbarrow do for transport; how the architect and poet measured out sites with lengths of cable wire; how the camouflage expert dug latrines; how a Field Officer was marooned in the " poetic brook " (and what he said); how the confusion arose between meat safe parts & latrine parts, and what the two cooks did to the bullybeef and spam which is a secret even until this day.

THOSE intrepid heroes lived on faith in the future they were making with pick and shovels; they prepared for another band on their way over to a " wonderful camp, with a beautiful stream at the foot of the hill !

WHAT of the poems and buildings and camouflage, and gardens ? Read the Ode to " Futility " by Petah.

SNOOPINGS BY

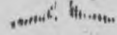
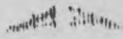


HELLO FOLKS , hows everything in Kiwiland ? Reckon the chaps here are gettin' kinda anxious about them cows and calves fer this milkin' season. Don't know much about 'em meself, but from what the chaps say, I reckon that idea of bitin' lambs tails off calls for pretty good teeth. I ain't never seen it done myself. ::: I overheard the " Old Man " tellin the Editor to see that " Old Moonshine ", Ted Knowling and " that young Snooper " didn't go writin' articles in this home issue that wasn't fit for folks to read. Chaps wouldn't send last two home issues to their folk 'cos - well, I 'spose they didn't want to have to answer too many questions. ::: THE other night I heard Claude Lowe sayin' how he missed " Tired " Norton; he reckoned that " Tired " set a great example - moved about so quiet and slow - just right pace for the tropics. Claude, he's got into the habit of runnin'p places. ::: You know folks, different times I been up this way, I often wondered how the chaps in the CRE Store got through so much work - lumpin' about ten thousand bags of cement about and lots of other heavy things. Well, this is the lowdown. When the fellas got a bit weary, Lieut. Brooker used to get his ukulele out while everyone would join in the songs. Val Reid leads the chorus - that is , when they are throwing bulldozers, steam heaters and ice cream plants on to the top shelves. Hec Mulholland is a great cheer leader. He should make a name for himself in the Boy Scout Cubs when he settles down in civvie life. ::: TALKIN' of settlin' down, its funny how chaps get a dislike of things. Take George Bolton from Petone (somewhere in North Island, they say). I heard George say that he didn't give a D - when he was on the "list". It ain't the black list, it ain't the list of chaps that's got French gals, it ain't the Fat Spread Eaters List. Got me whacked. Eddie Heald, Jack Burchall, and Tom Gillcooley won't have anything to do with it either. Even Jim Hawthorne whose always talkin' of bringin' his Barry, Jean and Ivy over here. Even Tom Yuill who had a birthday the other week says : " Don't you bring one of them there 'lists' along to me ! In next home issue I'll tell you all about it. I'll tell you about our "Speed Hogs " too, in the next "homer ". They are Smithy, Young Vogt, Cliff Burns and one of two other. Tom Skelton, I ain't got the lowdown on him yet, but I know he's done about 25,000 miles since he's been on the road. ::: LOOK after yourselves, folks.

" Sundry forms which these fertile growths of lip hair may take".
Bulldozer.

FROM our distinguished contemporary, the Bulldozer, we reprint the following extract on the " fertile growths " for the guidance and warning our our readers. ::: First the articles summarises the reason why the " gr ths " appear. Far, as soldiers are in the Pacific, from social social approval and disapproval, they try themselves out: one man appears with his " noggan as bald as a cocoanut; another hides behind a scraggly growth he vainly calls his beard," and other indulge in :-

" THE ' Pretty Boy ' or ' Clark Gable ' style which is characterised by sleek lines and a meticulous trim-job. It may be straight lined or it may have an nasal extension, or a nostril tickler.::: THEN there is the carefree, unkempt type which is seldom trimmed and is left at its natural width. This one could hardly be described as an outcropping of vanity. A very familiar type, though quite rare is the " Adolph " style - a highly disgusting and nauseating European mustache. Yanks who wear these jeopardise their future welfare. Last in todays discussion is the picturesque and guant " HANDLEBAR HANK " variety which is flaunted in all forward areas and which is fascinating to all who behold. "



Handlebar Hank.

Jesse James.

Take
Your
Pick.

LAUNCHING " LOLITA "

" LOLITA " was (note past tense) the pride of Alan Chapman, Bill Charleton, Bob Williscroft, Rupert Robbie, " Panhandle " Johnstone, Arthur Ward and Lieut. Marshall - and several others. ::: SHE was a trim craft of sixteen feet, painted white, sleek lines and a auxiliary motor. But her temperament was uncertain; her career a chequered one and her trimness deceptive. ::: ONCE she lost her bottom; once she was washed away; several times she just sank. But it was at the launching she displayed a petulance that left her maker's shamed. ::: ALL was ready for the big event on the Bourail river. Onlookers of all nationalities lined the river banks for the fame of the Kiwi boatbuilders had gone abroad, Kanakas and high ranking officer vied with all and sundry for the first commercial trip.::: AFTER tinkering and last minute tying with wire and string, the motor kicked over with a whirr and " Lolita " shot backwards up the river. Rupert Robbie almost swallowed his pipe. The language of the crew is still unprintable. Then the craft - well we draw the story to a close. But she looked good .

WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS COMPLETE
FIRST YEAR OF ACTIVITIES: (Cont from
PAGE 3.)

CHANGES.

trucks and set off on the hundred
odd mile trip. The drizzling rain
which commenced in the early after-
noon, became a downpour by the time
the party arrived at the present
site where the " Advance Party "
had tents up and a good meal ready.
The following extract from a diary
gives the impressions of one member
the following morning.

Lt-Col. H.A. Jones who came
over with the Unit as CRE was tran-
sferred to N.Z., and Captain. E.
Blacker who was OC of the Wharf
Operating Unit, was promoted to
Major and became CO of the Constr-
uction Coy. Captain W. P. Boyd who had
been acting OC became 2 i/c. Major.
S. West, Staff Officer, became
DCRE, and Captain F.J. Clark became
OC of the Wharf Operating Unit.

" A sleepless night. The
roll of the ship was with
me all night. The other
chaps say they felt the
same way. Before I got
to bed last night, the
mosquitoes opened their
offensive. Most of us
have well bitten arms
through being too close
to the net. It was not
until after breakfast this
morning that we realised
how fortunate we were on
our arrival to find the
tents up and a good hot
meal ready for us. We
learnt that it was not
until Friday afternoon
that Major West, OC of the
"Advance Party" learnt
of our impending arrival,
and had to go like a
scalded cat to get tent
and have everything ready
for us. It was a good bit
of work. Judging by the
jokes and humour of mem-
bers of the 'Advance Party',
they have been a pretty
happy crowd since their
arrival. "

4th. N.Z. GEN. HOSP.

ON Sept. th. 1943. H.Q. Constr.
Coy. moved up to the Dumbea Valley
under sealed deadline for
completion of the Hospital. The
Coy. went to work with a deter-
mination to see the job was completed
on time. It was. Back in Base
Camp, known as " Le-Clerc's Farm" the
work swung into action with increased
tempo. Concrete pipes had to be
made, roads had to be maintained,
installation of electric light in
the Base Area, installation of an
ice cream plant in Field Bakery,
buildings erected at H.Q.N.Z.E.F.1
and water supply for adjoining
camps.

.....
: The hard toiling truck :
: drivers are a happy :
: bunch. But " Farmer " :
: Scansbury thinks they :
: are all on a " star - :
: vation diet ". He says :
: " My one ambition now :
: is to get under a :
: heifer " :
.....

" NO STATISCIANS "

FIRST JOBS.

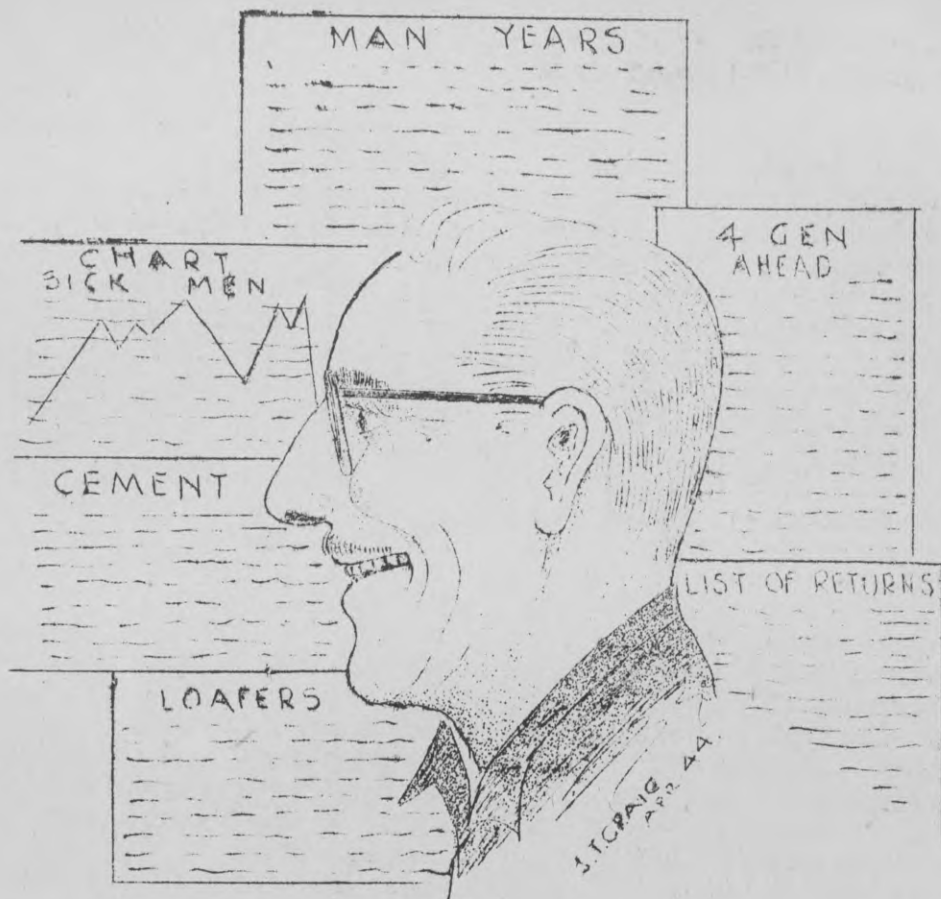
APART from preparations in the
camp such as the erection of the
mess and other local necessities,
the first job was the erection of
a CRE Store. Naiculis had to be
cleared from the present site, a
road made and a good deal of lev-
elling done. This completed other
jobs followed in quick succession.
Construction and thatching of bures
for Pay and Records in BRD, roads
through BID, further warehouses
at BOD and DOW. A working party
was soon under way at N.Z. Transit
Camp, Noumea on the construction of
huts and other buildings under Lieut.
Mann, Works Officer. Surveys of
present site of Con, Depot were
carried out; early in August a
party left for Dumbea Valley to
survey site for 4th. N.Z.Gen. Hosp.

WHEN Lieut. D. Brooker was
approached on the question of a
list of material which he and his
staff handled in the CRE Store, he
gave a despairing look and said :
" We have never been able to get
hold of a Statistician and I doubt
whether one would have been much
good to us " Sgt. Arthur Burge
grunted approval and Hec Mulholla
on loan from the Wharf Operating
Unit, said in a superior tone :
" We could blind you with figures
if we had time ".

Figures Speak .

IN the absence of the necess-
ary staticians we learnt that the
Store Staff had handled 10.000
bags of cement, 100 tons of nails
250.000 super feet of timber,
16.000 field tiles, over 50
different types of plants rangin

(see page II Col 2.)



WE went to interview the great man in his office and, after much cajoling, Chief Chucker Out, Cain allowed us behind the counter so we made our way past the outer defences of Geoff Mannix and Ted Knowling and, at last, came to where our Basil was preparing a graph showing the number of carpenters who claimed to be farmers. ::: WE coughed deferentially to attract his attention. ::: " ANY experience at bookmaking, knitting, bondselling or other essential work?", he asked shuffling papers together. ::: HE paused to look at some mail George Aim had brought in and then threw it into the waste paper basket. " Thats so the " Old Man ' can find it easy ", he explained - - " our new filing system " ::: WE asked him where he was born. Glancing at a chart behind him, he said triumphantly " The records show that you have been vaccinated, confirmed, practice polygamy and are a free mason " ::: " These charts ", we said hurriedly to change the subject, " how did you learn about them ? " Its a long story, he replied gazing raptly at the charts - lots of 'em. ::: I first learnt how fascinating figures could be when I started keeping a book of telephone numbers years ago. Thats what took me from Wellington to Invercargill " " Yes ", he continued dreamily allowing his eyes to wander to a shapely WAAC as she filed past, " figures can't lie " ::: FURTHER questioning elected the information that he was born in the South Island some time after the Boer War, and after the usual schooling, followed the usual occupation of farming. Was soon left behind, so entered the N.Z.R. and took up with graphs and charts. ::: BEYOND admitting being married, he refused all further information. As we departed, he whipped out another paper. " According to the roster, your on duty on Sunday " was his parting shot.

"" ""

BOILER HOUSE STACK
ERECTED WITHOUT HITCH.

THE crection of the sixty foot Boiler House Stack, four feet in diameter and weighing three and a half tons, was, to the layman, the most exacting and neatest job undertaken by the Services Section in their twelve months on the Island

TO the Engineer the job was a challenge which allowed no error in calculations and judgement. ::: WITH a 20 ton crane grasping it a few feet above the point of balance, the Stack was lifted up, and the lower end resting on a trolley, rolled slowly forward to a prepared base. At the right moment the Stack swung clear, & foot ropes guided the lower end over the bed plate.

(SEE PAGE 12)

APR SICKNESS (Cont.
from page 12.)

Or if the he is a sheep farmer say :-
" God knows, the twenty thousand sheep on my station will have fleeces as long as Mehhalish's beard ". This calms the afflicted one and assures him that the OC is, like himself, a man of substance.

FINALLY, it is a wise move to hand the patient a cheap cigar - make sure it is cheap, otherwise it will not be strong enough - and see that he smokes it in your presence. Should he prove immune to any of the foregoing efforts, one method of gauging the seriousness of the disease is to take a block of wood in the right hand and, with a heavy downward sweep, hit him squarely on the back of the head: if he feels nothing, he is not likely to recover.

ATTENTION ALL RANKS !

DON HOLLOWAY who has been in charge for the past six months says he would like to open a pawnshop on his return to Ch'Ch. To intending patrons he wishes to intimate that he will not give loans on sheath knives, soap containers, toilet sets, -- in fact, on nothing he sells in the Canteen.

Cont From page 4. .

The circular shape and strong construction made it well high hurricane proof. The oldest natives recount with glee that when a bad hurricane came the people of the village made for the ceremonial house.

Works Service Engineers
Complete First Year Of
Activity. (Cont from
page 8)

from lighting plants to pumping sets. All prefabricated parts of warehouses which were erected, hut parts, electric light cable, bulbs - in all 22,500 tons of stores.

" GERTRUDE "

THE group of Services Section who remained at Base Camp, or "McClare's Farm", as it is officially known had to handle, as well as incidental jobs in the area, all the maintenance of trucks, bulldozers, plainers and graders. This meant the erection of a Work shop, a smithy and the full time use of a Mobile Workshop. Unofficially, the creation of " Gertrude " marked a high water mark in " improvising and ingenuity ". It is only fair to say that the redoubtable " Mrs Perkins " owes her continued longevity to the rejuvenating prowess of the mechanics (with all credit to Gordon Macale fully recognised, of course).

SHIPS AHOY!

Behind all this activity, and seldom coming into the limelight, was the Wharf Operating Unit which had the job of unloading all supplies for the CRE Store. To that was added the operation of the pre-cast concrete products - "The Humorous Concrete Coy." It was their boast that if anything could be made they could make it in concrete. And judging from the work they did for the Construction Coy. there was something in the claim. (See page 12)

BY THE WAY.

A new cocktail, " Off Record " has made its appearance in camp. Tommy Stokes was not prepared to comment on it beyond stating that it " was the goods ". He referred us to Sgt. Dick Laurie and " Reg Rag " Morrissey for further details. Neither were in any humour to comment on anything beyond the need for Aspirin when we saw them.

" Sconedors Cafe " almost changed hands recently to the Drag Line. Ask " Deacon " Carswell or Archie Canavon for detail

HAVING finished a flex glass P 38 Light ning, Jim Hawthorne says that R and Rube Curtis may fly home - that is when Rube finishes his P 51 Mustang Fight .

We hear that latest developments are providing Capt. Boyd with plenty of amusement.

" Hori " Hazleman finds he is growing so fat and chubby he is afraid his civvie clothes will not fit him on his return. There is some talk of his wanting to stay here until the summer so he can reduce under tropic sun. (OC please note)

Maurie Palmer who spent the first eighteen months of his life on a farm is anxious to renew old times and expects to be called to the cowyard any day. (Surprising how popular farming is now among our personnel)

If you want to know how to boil a pea nut tin of water at the door of your tent ask Keith Dawson.

" Bunny " Spencer and Doug Comerie are due to collect five dollars each on a wager - they are going to donate it to Nat. Pat. funds we hear. A splendid example !!!

Works Service Engineers Complete First Year Of Activities. (Cont. from page II)

Working parties from the Wharf Unit also assisted with the drainage systems necessary in 4th. Gen. Hosp., and other jobs.

MORE WORK,

AS the 4th. Gen. Hosp. was being completed, work was proceeding with the Convalescent Depot and the Kiwi Club. The former being almost as large as the 4th. Gen Hosp., and the latter is regarded as the finest Soldiers' Club in the South Pacific area.

THIS brief summary of the year's work indicates that members of the Works Service Engineers may look back on the year with the satisfaction of knowing that they carried out their tasks efficiently - and made a genuine contribution to a victory which will soon be consummated.

Your Cheerio.

APR SICKNESS Cont. from page IO)

THE next symptom is a desire to make for the OC'S HQ. Medical authorities may regard this as the final stage of the disease.

NEEDLESS to say, the patient must be handled with great care at this stage. If the OC should have his wireless on N. Z. News Session, he should switch on to Tokio immediately (see ADM Order OO/-) And should the OC be playing his favourite gramophone record - Annie Laurie, Billie Boy, or The Hundred Pipers - he should blame his Batman and immediately play a training record.

TREATMENT by the OC should be given in a well modulated voice (lie well back in the chair with both hands in pockets) and a confidential, almost secretive atmosphere created - when possible. Instead of using Latin terminology, so common in medicine, the OC should confine himself to Anglo - Saxon which is more in keeping with Democracy and the Common Man's War. A most useful phrase is "Anytime now!" This has a most soothing effect on the patient after the tenth visit. Gestures too help - throw both hands in the air, or drop the head on the chest with an air of utter despondency. If it is necessary to walk, a close study of Hamlet will be most helpful. The classical touch will be most effective.

ANOTHER good device is for the OC to say: "I am a married man with a family myself!" Or if the patient is a dairy farmer say: "I have a farm with a hundred cows that are due to calve any day in September!" (See page II)

EXTRACT FROM A DIARY.

" WELL, it's actually happened - last night we had all the rumours and fears confirmed by the official fact that we were off at last. Everyone was tearing around at the last minute sending wires and last minute letters to their people. I managed to get my photo taken - my gear sent home and also a telegram away to that loving little family of mine!"

" ABOUT 8.30 P.M. we set off for the siding, loaded down like pack horses. What a load! Rifles, web equipment, great coat, tin helmet - everything but the kitchen sink!"

" OUR trip north was very cold and sleepless; the monotony being broken by occasional cups of tea, and breakfast at Papakura which was brought down to the station in hot boxes. There was porridge, stew, tea, bread and butter!"

" FROM then on we were all in a much better frame of mind and a lot warmer. The train hit Auckland where a number of trucks were waiting to take us to the ship."

" ON board at last! She is a pretty good looking ship: one of those 10 day models America has specialised in making. This being my first experience of a US ship I could not help but noticing that she was all-welded. The other thing that impressed me was that she was under naval control."

M
" ACCOMODATION was very congested. Bunks were high, about three feet apart and the atmosphere was terrible in contrast to Waiau. When we left the thermometer registered close on 10 below. In the sleeping quarters on this ship it must be well above 80."

" NEXT DAY, Immediately after breakfast which was at 5.45., the (see col. I)
(Turn back to page IO)

CLEM Harris and " Butch Miller are now in no hurry to go home. Clem had a new back-loader, " Butch " a newly painted truck.

PETER O'Reilly is doing AI -out of plaster this week.