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# P.C.

### A Message to Parents and Children:

The slogan for every parent should be "P.C." which means **Please Co-operate to Prevent Caries** in children's teeth. This is of course another way of saying "prevent decay".

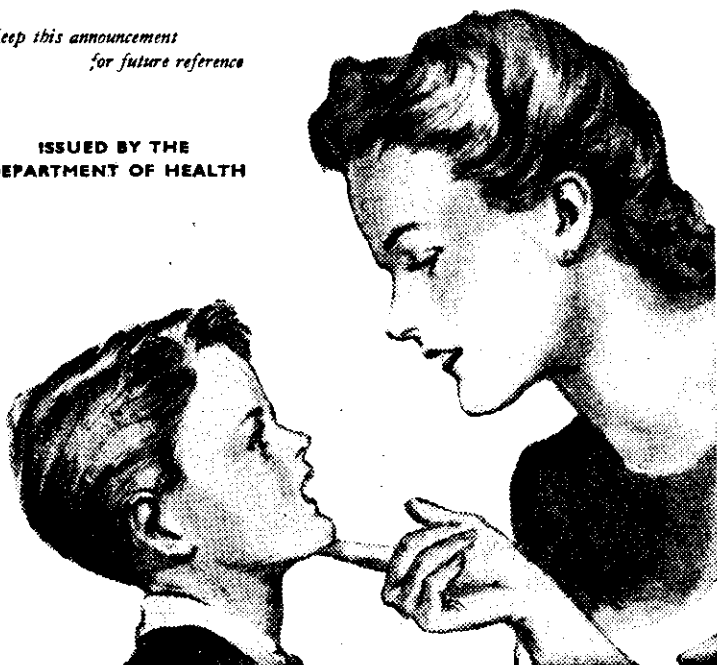
The School Dental Service provides regular dental attention for children, instructs them in home care of the teeth, and gives advice on tooth building and tooth cleansing diets.

Complete co-operation is therefore necessary between parent, child and school dental nurse. To gain the maximum benefit parents are urged to help by ensuring that advice given at the school dental clinic is followed up at home.

P.C. also stands for **Pre-school Child**. Children from the age of two and a half years should receive regular dental inspections either from a dental surgeon or, should roll numbers permit, at a school dental clinic.

Keep this announcement  
for future reference

ISSUED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## BOOKS

# HEROIC HANDFULS

**PACIFIC COMMANDOS: NEW ZEALANDERS AND FIJIANS IN ACTION.** By Colin R. Larsen. A. H. & A. W. Reed.

**T**HE commando, charged with special missions and given great liberty of choice in action, has better luck than the men who make up the big battalions. There is a satisfaction in employing to the full natural capacity for specialised and skilled tasks which can distract men from danger and certainly compensate for hardship. The Pacific Commandos had always to use their heads, had to take the initiative as individuals, and had constantly to seek out and then outwit their enemy.

This is a fine short record of a small, hand-picked unit, chosen for quality and trained to fight under the arduous conditions of jungle warfare in the tropics.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the work of the First Commando Fiji Guerrillas was the collaboration of such diverse races and nationalities. Regularly serving in the force were New Zealanders, Englishmen, Fijians, Tongans, and Solomon Islanders, and Americans were often attached to it. To a superficial eye the Fijians are 50 years behind the Maori in Europeanisation. (I do not discuss here whether this process is continuous, inevitable, or desirable). Their intellectual capacity, in terms of the white man's world, is amply proved by the distinguished attainments of such a man as Colonel Sir Lala Sukuna or, in a different field, by the success of the system of training selected Fijians as native medical practitioners. The work of the guerrillas gave full scope to the special abilities of the Fijian for inconspicuous jungle movement and catlike clairvoyance at night. Under New Zealand leadership the Fijians had qualities of their own to contribute to the success of the unit. It is to be hoped that this war-time partnership will have its counterpart in peace.

The Commando companies were formed in Fiji early in 1942 with the primary object of harassing any bodies of Japanese troops who might land in the group. A strenuous programme of training introduced the New Zealanders to the Fiji bush, rivers, and mountains, and the Fijians to the organisation and discipline which, though kept to a minimum, were necessary to the existence of a military force. The rigorous training during these months of waiting bore remarkable fruit afterwards in the Solomons.

The first to go into action, the Special Party under Captain D. E. Williams, went to Guadalcanal late in 1942, carrying out aggressive patrols and reconnaissance work which no other troops were fitted to perform. The main body of the First Commando Fiji Guerrillas followed them to the Solomons, and joined in the combing of the Guadalcanal hinterland and other islands for retreating Japanese.

The 35-day assault on the Munda airfield in New Georgia, which the Japanese stubbornly contested, gave the commandos their most severe battle experience. It was also their time of greatest usefulness. The commando, scouting

groups were the eyes and ears of the United States ground troops in jungle fighting in which their special training gave them the initiative. Later in 1943 a selected party did good work for the American landing forces on Vella Lavella.

It is impossible as well as invidious to praise individuals in a unit where all showed such marked gallantry. Sergeant Larsen himself pays a special tribute to the commanding officer, Major C. W. H. Tripp, whose "example and leadership" were "undoubtedly the greatest single contributing factor to the evolution of the commando." Incidentally, this evolution was gravely handicapped by a perpetual lack of equipment: this does not make comfortable reading to-day.

The commandos did not work without loss. Their operating area was almost always deep inside enemy-held territory, and their usual job of reconnoitring enemy positions kept them constantly in danger. It was, however, tropical disease which, added to losses in action, led in May 1944 to the disbandment of the First Commando Fiji Guerrillas.

Colin Larsen's account of the commandos' work is clear, modest, objective and intimate. He is content to leave the events themselves to stir and capture the imagination. Fortunate in a subject which could be kept within a definite compass, he gives at all times the special atmosphere of his unit, in the field and at its bases, working, resting, fighting and having fun.

The book is adequately illustrated, and is in many respects an example for unit historians.

### BEYOND BOSWELL

**DR. JOHNSON AND COMPANY.** By Robert Lynd. Penguin Books.

**A**LTHOUGH its purpose is to present in a short space a well-proportioned picture of a man drawn from all sources, this short biography of Dr. Samuel Johnson also embraces studies of his friends, early and late. And it uses a good deal of material not treated in Boswell. There is an excellent assessment of the character and attainments of that pleasant, talented, and outrageous bouncer himself ("Boswell, in all his amusing love-affairs, was not only a man who kissed and told, but a man to whom telling gave a deeper and more lasting pleasure than kissing.")

Like Boswell, Robert Lynd is not an uncritical admirer of the most successful and imposing of literary dictators; but he in some degree shares the affection of his contemporaries for this ugly mountain of a man with his wit and his melancholia, his charm and his brutality, his laziness and his learning. Robert Lynd is shrewd, observant, graceful and just, and this book makes one regret that he has for so long devoted so much of his energies to such an outmoded form as the essay.

—David Hall.

### BACK TO CHILDHOOD

**COUNTRY THINGS.** By Alison Uttley. Faber and Faber (London).

**M**R. UTTLEY had apparently a very happy childhood, and now a long time afterwards is happy to indulge in reminiscences of it. She lived in the