

DIT = DAH

9/10/41
DIT

2 NZ DIVISIONAL SIGNALS :: AT SEA, JANUARY 27, 1940 :: VOL 2 NO 5

THE MESS DECK SAYS:

We hear some of our poets have been working on the words of a song for Div. Sigs. Results, please !...

The laugh of the week, we are told, is on one Super-Signalman (he is really too valuable to have been made a corporal). When they wanted a GOOD signaller to stay on the bridge at Fremantle, they took his word for it and gave him the job...

It's getting so you can't even count sheep in your sleep without someone bawling "Housy !" in your ear....

And still on the subject of "Housy-Housy": After reading Ship's Routine Orders, some of us have been thinking that the real name of the game is "Monopoly"....

After the job we made of the patches, we've been considering asking the Waikikamukau Women's Sewing Circle about affiliating with 2 NZ Div Sigs -- or vice versa....

I was talking last night to the
Hammock King,
And he confided in me
That he wished all the hammocks
Were down in the depths of the sea.
And then he said, "It's a flamin'
nark;
They'll be late
For a cert...
And I've lost my voice - I can
only bark,
And they think my name
Is dirt."
And I replied
(Smiling wide):
"I'll do no good to fight -
To beat the rap -
My dear old chap;
For I believe
They're RIGHT !" -- J.N.A.

BEFORE YOU POST the last issue of "Dit-Dah," cross out the date which appears at the top of each page.

FREMANTLE LAMENT

(Apologies to Wordsworth)

Broke ! Broke ! Broke !
Not a bean to call my own;
And there's lots of things I
want to do
If I could but raise a loan.

Alas for the pub round the corner;
Alas for the girls passing by --
All these, I suppose, are only
for those
With a lot more money than I.

And the rest of the troops rush on,
To profit by every minute;
And it's woe for the Sig whose
wishes are big
But whose pocket has nothing in it.

WELL, IT'S HIS STORY...

Flying fishes in the sea... and
scorpions in the ballast hold !
That's what Paddy Shine tells us,
anyway - about the scorpions, we
mean. With a party detailed to
shift things around down there, he
has crawled into that dark, musty,
low-ceilinged space just this side
of the keel.

And he says it houses scorpions,
spiders as big as mice, and cobwebs
like barbed-wire entanglements.

Paddy had to push through them,
in fact.
(But that's not how he won the
C.B.)...

WHO'S WHO ?

Who was it asked the C.O. if we
would be told the approximate time
we had to be back from leave ?

Who is the lance-corporal with
the fancy boots ?

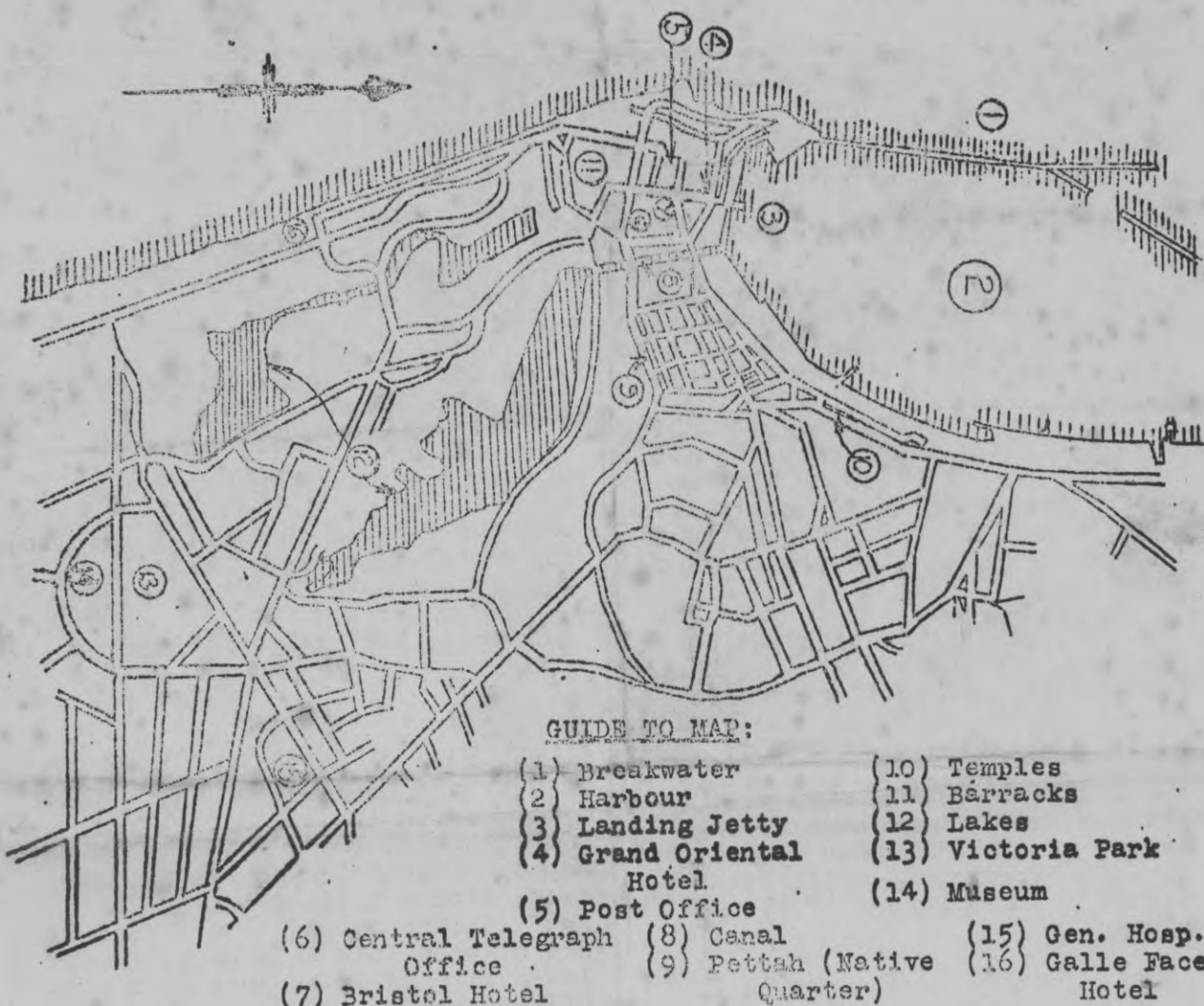
Who.. is the lance-corporal who
wrestled Man-Mountain Dean ?

Who is the corporal who, early in
the morning, reminds us of Satan
calling up from the Pit ?

Who is the mess orderly with the
most raucous voice ?

Who made the startling discovery
that ears have walls ?

PREVIEW OF COLOMBO



GUIDE TO MAP:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Breakwater | (10) Temples |
| (2) Harbour | (11) Barracks |
| (3) Landing Jetty | (12) Lakes |
| (4) Grand Oriental Hotel | (13) Victoria Park |
| (5) Post Office | (14) Museum |
| (6) Central Telegraph Office | (15) Gen. Hosp. |
| (7) Bristol Hotel | (16) Galle Face Hotel |
| (8) Canal | |
| (9) Pettah (Native Quarter) | |

EVEN SNAKECHARMERS!

Soon you may see rickshaws and snakecharmers for the first time -- for these are two of the characteristics of Colombo, of which "Dit-Dah" here gives you a preview.

Incoming visitors to Colombo leave their ship at anchor in the harbour and are conveyed to a landing stage, around which is the shopping centre, known as the Fort. There one may bargain for silks and jewels and souvenirs. Colombo has a reputation for wonderful tailors, whose charges are extremely moderate if a proper bargain is struck.

Snakecharmers and sometimes a conjurer are to be seen near the principal hotels, which are the Grand Oriental and the Bristol (both in the town), and the Galle Face (on the sea-front).

ORIENTAL MUSEUM

Most of the Europeans live in the "Cinnamon Gardens," near Victoria Park, in the vicinity of which is the Oriental Museum -- a place well worth a visit. Another interesting building is the Kelani Temple, a short distance from Colombo.

Typical foods you may sample are curries and such fruits as the sugar banana, the paw-paw and the mango.

If you are able to recognise it, you may notice a strong vein of Portuguese in the Colombo dialect -- a relic of the town's early history, when both the Portuguese and the Dutch occupied it.

(Map and text by courtesy of L/Cpl J. Hill).