

NEWS runs well round the Gonophone this week. Stories came so fast it is hard to remember which had precedence. The first one of importance was the N.Z. Home Guard are now on "final" and are expected to move on to a "forward area" at short notice. : : : TUESDAY mid-day started off with the belief that early pay parade was designed to allow all of a certain age group to be medically examined and rushed to B.T.D. before midnight. THURSDAY followed with a revival of the old hopeful that all were returning to B.Z. to prepare for a trip to the Middle East. Before the day was out the journey was shortened to a rapid transfer of all personnel to a "forward area". By Friday the war had almost drawn to a close. : : : IT may be worth while to emphasise one or two of the salient points of gonophone news so that it may be recognised at sight. First, it is usually claimed that the source came from not on high, but from "high ups". The L/Cpl who heard from someone's batman who heard it from an orderly in a mess somewhere on the Island. The second characteristic is that the news is always startling, has to do with immediate shift and, sometimes displays a "balls-up". The American navy has a similar term, "Scuttlebutt" which covers stories gathered at the drinking fountain on board ship. In the American Army the equivalent of the gonophone is also a starting point for information from "higher-ups". An American visitor to camp recently was amused and surprised at N.Z. gonophone. He claimed it the first he had heard and said it was not known in U. S. Army.

"PANHANDLE" Johnstone and Party organised a spectacular demonstration of "Fire Eating" which included stunts on ground and up Naicubi trees. "Panhandle" repudiates the suggestion that the show was designed as counter attraction to Takks Detachment's smoke concert to which WORKS personnel in camp were NOT invited.

WORKING on an exchange with our team at one-time base camp, Sgt. V. Nash replaced Snowy Lord who arrived early this week. In his white hat, trousers, and shirt he looks the part. When he arrived he swore it was good to be back among the "Old Faces". We squirmed, but he pointed out that no offence suggested.

THE WORKS SERVICE SURF TEAM looked very well when they turned out last Sunday for the N.Z.E.F. IP Surf & Life Saving Club's display at Bou-rail Beach. Four teams, Works, B.T.D. NO 1., B.T.D. NO.2 and Signals participated in the marching display. The position of the leading team was given WORKS who, according to the general opinion of the large crowd present, put on the best show of the afternoon. : : : OWING to having only two surf reels it was impossible to have a four team water run as was previously arranged. So after spinning the coin B.T.D. NO 2 gave the exhibition run, their drill movements and the way that they worked together was a credit to the persons concerned with their training. : : : THE amount of training that WORKS team has had their display on Sunday gives great credit to the team captain, Capper Laurie (Bldg Sec.) and to the members generally for the interest they have taken in the work since it has been formed. The N.Z.E.F. IP Band was in attendance during the display and played several items which were greatly appreciated. (C.R.)

BOXING.

BOXING again under way in camp and promises some good sport before long. The two heavyweights, McCosh and Holwell, are as keen as ever and, if they keep at practice, they should be more than a match for most of their class on the Island. Another member who will add to the laurels of the COY. is lightweight Morton; he is on the fast side for the lads in his class, but McGregor will keep him busy. Alex Toner is shaping well and with more training will make his weight felt. Cpl. Robb and party are working on the construction of a ring which will give training an air of the real thing.

DRAUGHT PLAYERS: Meeting next Tuesday night to organise a club and arrange a tournament. Like the chess players, the draught kings are modest, but they move with skill as was discovered by more than one player on Thursday night. All who are interested are requested to call at A.W.E.S. HUT.

THIS IS NOT A HOME ISSUE.