

PACIFIC IMPACTS.CHANGING KIWIS.

(By "Curly" Griffin)

"WE are looking to the Wharf Operating Coy. to supply an article for our Christmas issue - say we make Dec. 7th. the deadline". That was the first intimation that we had to supply an article and that I had to write it. I protested in vain. Dozerdust usually gets what it wants. So you will gather that this introductory chapter is a further protest and an apology to the reader which should throw all the blame where it belongs - to the Editor. ::: HE usually gets the articles which goes to show that I in common with most other members of the Unit have developed more self confidence than we possessed on our arrival. And I think this is true of most Kiwis in the Pacific. We have been called upon to turn our hand to many differing jobs, thrown upon our own resources and toughened by military training that we are much more sure of ourselves than we were twelve months ago. Chaps like Sgt. Wally Hobson (spare me Sarge) and Hec Mulholland (no relation to the Farmers Union) who spent most of their time behind shop counters have added not only to their vocabulary (a considerable addition, I might add) but also to what happens in the open spaces. Ned Sainsbury will be a different type of bank clerk on his return and Civil Servants such as " Short-Haired" Richmond and myself will find the Dept. irksome. ::: ALL of us have been accustomed for so long to Army discipline that on our discharge we will not know what to do with our freedom. We will want to use it for the sheer pleasure of telling the boss where he gets off. And I don't think we will worry very much what our friends say or think ; we have learnt that the conventional ties of the suburb are not the beginning and end of everything as we once did. ::: WE have also learnt that N.Z. is much smaller than we once thought it. In the past it was the centre of the Pacific - there were other islands, but they were just names on the map, not very important. They are still unimportant, but they have reduced N.Z. in perspective. The domestic questions we looked upon as so vital no longer seem so: we sense that we are almost as negligible in world affairs as the Kanakas who shuffle along the roads.

This is emphasised, I think, by our meeting soldiers of Allied Services many of whom too, are cock-sure of their nation's greatness. This opportunity to compare our life with that of other men makes ours stand out by comparison; got a Kiwi hot under the collar and you will soon find that all Kiwis are linked by a powerful and characteristic language; you will find he has all the parochial loyalty of the family, the conviction that he can do anything as well as if not better than most men of any country. And surprising enough, he justifies the claim. He doesn't talk very much about what he can do, or who he is: he does the job and takes for granted that he should be able to. ::: FINALLY, there is this I've learnt : the Kiwi is a matter of fact kind of guy with the girls. If she does not like him, he loses no sleep; if she does he compliments her on her common sense.

SOUTH PACIFIC BOXING.NEW ZEALAND ARTA FINALS.

THE OUTSTANDING BOXER OF THE EVENING WAS W. B. NEWTON, 147lb, WHO FOUGHT WILLIAMS A COLOURED BOY. NEWTON FOUGHT A COOL, HEADY AND SCIENTIFIC BATTLE AGAINST A FAST, FIT AND VIGOROUS FIGHTER WHO AT NO STAGE HAD THE MEASURE OF NEWTON.

A Wellingtonian who had his initial training at St. Pats and has not had more than half a dozen ring appearances to his credit W. Newton was both unlucky and unfortunate. Unlucky in that he lost by a narrow margin in the last round in a battle in which he was master all the way. Unfortunate in that he had injured his arm earlier in the week, which told on him at the close of the fight and he, to a greater extent than Billy Brown, suffered from the local climate. He lost fully ten pounds in the short time he had been on the Island. ::: TRY as he might Williams could not lure Newton into a mix up; this was a type of fighting that Williams had not met before. He led with his left and hooked the fight only to find a snappy left knocking his head back. He fought well in a close rally at end of round when he connected with jabs to the body. ::: AT the opening of the second round it was obvious Williams (cont. page 10 col 1.)