

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

trucks and set off on the hundred odd mile trip. The drizzling rain which commenced in the early afternoon, 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.

" 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 members of the 'Advance Party', they have been a pretty happy crowd since their arrival. "

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 levelling done. This completed other jobs followed in quick succession. Construction and thatching of bures for Pay and Records in BRD, roads through BTD, 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 Dumbéa Valley to survey site for 4th. N.Z. Gen. Hosp.

CHANGES.

Lt-Col. H.A. Jones who came over with the Unit as CRE was transferred to N.Z., and Captain. E. Blacker who was OC of the Wharf Operating Unit, was promoted to Major and became CO of the Construction, 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.

4th. N.Z. GEN. HOSP.

ON Sept. th. 1943. H.Q. Constr. Coy. moved up to the Dumbéa Valley under sealed deadline for completion of the Hospital. The Coy. went to work with a determination to see the job was completed on time. It was. Back in Base Camp, known as "LeClere'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.

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

" NO STATISCIANS "

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 necessary 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 ranging

(see page II Col 2.)