

Ack Ack in the Pacific

(From 'FLAK'S' Special Correspondent.)

It was a dismal Monday morning, and a very early one at that, when the boys of "N" force sighted their destination.

A little island half hidden in rain. The closer our boat came, the smaller the island appeared. An ideal place for a six-day bike race.

"Gee!" I thought, "one day's leave and there will be nothing left to see." Sure enough I was right. On my first day's leave I saw all there was to see. Next leave I will have to travel backward and see where I have been.

Maybe we were not expected, but anyway the sun was not out to welcome us. A storm was brewing, and we were lucky to land as easily as we did. All the landing was carried out with lighters. We boys had to scramble down rope ladders hung over the side into tossing lighters, and in full web equipment it was no easy task.

The last two feet were the worst. The best method was to close one's eyes and let go, trusting to luck that there would be someone soft to land on. A sigh of relief. . We made it.

"Life on the ocean wave" had nothing on those blighters. One moment we were looking at the ship's keel, and the next were leering down its funnel. We finally made the shore but in none too dry a condition. Next came our kitbags, and they were no drier than we.

I have been told that, like us, the gear came ashore in lighters, but I am willing to bet my first pay (when I get it) that they were dragged through the breakers on ropes. You have seen lucky dips, but believe me,

they had nothing on the contents of our kits when we opened them. Everything was a sodden dirty grey mass. The cigarette paper suffered most. Try to extract one, and they all came out like a beautiful roll of toilet paper.

We were no sooner ashore than the rains came—with a vengeance. There was also a 50 m.p.h. gale tossed in for good measure. For three days and three nights we cowered in our tents. If we had had a dove of peace to send out, like Noah from his Ark, it would have needed waterwings.

We sat huddled six in a tent, waiting and looking for the silver lining. Once the sun did come, though, the land soon dried. Kit-bags were emptied out and clothes and gear spread on trees, fences and even the ground. In no time at all our camp looked like a cross between a second-hand shop and a chinese laundry.

This was our initiation to active service.

—RUNT.

AIRCRAFT BREVITIES

The Ford Motor Company at Detroit is planning to build gliders of a type capable for carrying 15 fully-equipped soldiers for invasion purposes.

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An employee in an aircraft factory in England, Frank Salt, has been sentenced to three years' penal servitude for failing to tighten a vital nut on aero-motors. Of 81 aero-motors examined in the factory, 19 had a slack nut for which Salt was responsible.

BOUNCED OVER MINE

A Supermarine Walrus of the Air-Sea rescue service alighted on the sea in the middle of a German minefield last month to rescue the pilot of a Whirlwind of the Fighter Command who had to bale out a few miles from the French Coast. The pilot of the Walrus said he had to alight crosswind to avoid the mines, and when taking off had to bounce the Walrus over a mine.

Begin now with AEWS

Morals and Manners

Highlight of the week at one Troop H.Q. of the 66th is the opening of a campaign for "Better Manners."

A certain gunner felt that the slogan should be extended to include: "...and Better Morals," but since everyone felt that theirs were above question, by a majority vote the motion was defeated at a recent lunch-hour stop-work meeting.

Our hard-baked sergeant opened the proceedings by reciting that useful little word that describes the place where the water ain't these days. Penalty, one penny. The managing committee have drawn up a set of rules to ensure a regular return of profits for the swear-box.

Substitutes may be used where the situation demands an increased vocabulary, but words with a double meaning are charged for at the rate of 3d. per meaning. If the accused can prove to the committee's satisfaction that no additional meanings were implied, the accusers are fined 1d. each for having bad minds.

Chief difficulty is small change. One Waac (with a brother in the life-guards) complains that because she had only 3d. to offer for a penny fine, the committee decided that it would be necessary for her to swear twice more to get over the difficulty.

Other punishable crimes include speaking-with-the-mouth-full, failing to use the Battery butter-knife, drinking tea out of our china saucers, and upsetting the jar of toothpicks.

The question of the distribution of income, less tax, less accounts overdue, less damages paid for defamation of character, less salaries to the committee, is to be decided at the next Union quarterly.

HAUL

At 2nd N.Z.E.F. Headquarters there was a German-speaking New Zealander whose job it was to interrogate German prisoners. He was working on a new batch one day when an impatient British staff officer enquired of him "Got anything out of them yet?"

Confidentially: the Kiwi replied "Two watches so far, sir. Do you want one?"

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