

Division so successfully drive the remaining enemy from Vella Lavella after the initial American landing, and who had patiently waited their turn, were ready. On October 27, 1943, they made the first opposed landing by a New Zealand force since Gallipoli, and recaptured a British island which very soon flew the Union Jack again.

The B.E.O. here, Lieut. J. L. Hewland, travelling north with the first body of attacking troops, was used to assist with unloading of stores and equipment, to lead water parties, to help in night-long observation posts, and generally to serve where odd jobs required. As he moved round the perimeter in the first few days, he found, as the B.E.O. in Vella Lavella had, that the one big demand was for news—of the progress of their comrades in the local battle, in North Africa, and in Russia.

So A.E.W.S. collected what it could from operational radios, typed it in the half-light of the jungle, and got it out somehow. A rest period from jungle patrol meant a great demand for something to read, and the B.E.O. was able to distribute what little he could get, by carrying a case of magazines through the mud and coconuts to the troops on the perimeter and in gun positions. University exam candidates in the first week of November could not be brought to H.Q. to sit their papers, so the papers went to them in their foxholes.

While the prisoners were still being brought in, twenty days after the initial landing, the film unit came into operation. In a space in the jungle cleared of undergrowth, under towering mahogany and teak trees, the men that could be spared from the guns gathered together to watch Hollywood stars who would perhaps have felt some pride in appearing, even if only on the screen, in the most forward

theatre in the South Pacific area. Two new projectors arrived soon after, and a regular schedule began less than a month after the landing. Men could not yet leave the perimeter or guns, so the movies had to go to them; and the three projectors were showing at sixteen different sites each week on six different islands in the group.

Gradually things settled down, and then came the deluge. A.E.W.S. study course applications arrived in the B.E.O.'s tent in large bundles; stocks were still at base, but frantic radio signals got them forward, and before very long over 15 per cent. of the men in this brigade group were using candles, or the ever-faithful Coleman lamp, to increase their knowledge of or preparation for their civilian occupation. Two officers of the brigade between them lectured to about one hundred and twenty men on the theory of Diesel engines, and their classes were given practical work by arrangement with the United States Navy. Like their comrades in Vella Lavella, they turned their hands to fashioning articles from the local woods and from scrap materials of the battlefields. To share ideas, the Unit Education Officers arranged a brigade exhibition of this craftwork. Too many examples were offering for the available tent space, so the



Official War Photo.

The Union Jack is flown over Falamae Village after the New Zealanders had driven the Japs out.