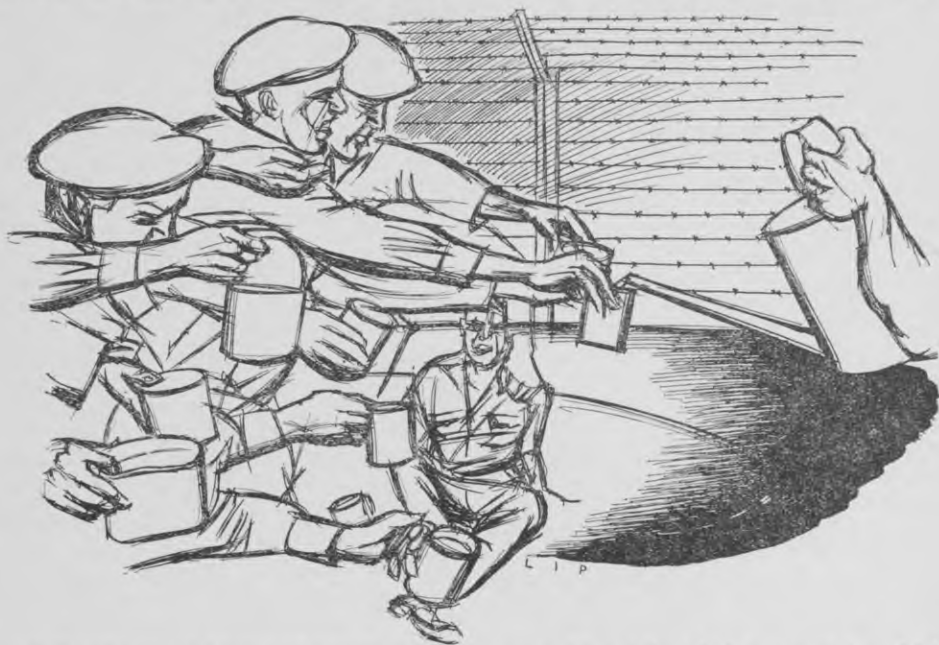


privileged jobs, better quarters, fuel, or protection by a "racket-king," as well as for potatoes and sugar. For most people, this business of scrounging, wangling, and ingratiation was the really serious business of life; it is possibly the aspect of prison life in which most danger for the future life of the prisoner of war lies.

The other notable break with normal standards of living which occurs at the start of captivity and which tends to be better adjusted as time goes on and conditions improve, rather than to become more definite, is the almost conscious and deliberate rejection of common decency

privacy was absolute, of course, and latrines were a stretch of sand pitted with shallow trenches; but most men neglected the most elementary principles of hygiene even to the extent of only kicking sand, and one was liable to come across excreta in the most surprising places. Flies, and dysentery, were thick in the air.

At Salonika there were inside latrines and running water, and this side of things improved. But the problem of barrack cleanliness remained, and of the primary chores that any community necessitates, and which were not done. N.C.O.s placed "in command" of a barrack by the Ger-



and cleanliness. This is perhaps an inevitable consequence of bad living conditions—although for most of us they were no worse than those of the retreat through Greece, when almost everyone managed to keep clean and tidy—but it went beyond the mere negatives of not washing or shaving, not keeping one's clothes clean; within a few days, the crowded barracks at Corinth camp swarmed with lice, to compete with the bed bugs that infested them already; a curious index of this deterioration was observable in the enormous increase in spitting. Lack of

mans, uncertain of the extent to which they could exert authority in any case, quickly became, or were made, aware of the anomalies of their position, and were usually afraid to issue orders. Certainly nobody was fool enough to volunteer for such jobs. All arrangements affecting order and cleanliness, therefore, were deferred until an outraged and contemptuous guard imposed them as orders.

And this aspect certainly does have its long-term effect. The resentment aroused by such scenes with guards, and the connotation that all work, inside as well