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WATCH THAT LETTER!

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"JUNIOR IN THE NAVY"

Dear Myrtle -

I am very enthusiastic about Navy life. We lie around in bed every morning until 5 o'clock. This, of course, gives us plenty of time to get washed, shaved, dressed, make bunks, etc. by 5:10. At 5:15 we stand outside and shiver a few minutes until a Chief Specialist gets ready to give us some exercise. Thirty minutes later, muscles aching and spirit broken, we grope our way through the darkness to the mess hall where we eat a hearty breakfast of cold beans and an unidentified liquid.

After gorging ourselves with this delicious repast we waddle slowly back to the bunkroom. We haven't a thing to do until 8:00 o'clock so we just sit around and scrub toilets, swab decks, wash windows and pick up all the cigarette butts and coke bottles for miles around.

Soon the bos'n's mate comes in and says, "Come out in the sun, Kiddies". So we go out in the beautiful sunlight. Of course it doesn't matter that everything is moldy and that it has rained continually for the past month and fog has enveloped the area for a year. The bos'n's mate says he can't help it if there aren't any drains around the pier and we have no rubbers.

At 8:00 o'clock we put on our light landing force pack, which is not to be confused with a heavy landing force pack. The light pack consists of a .30 cal. machine gun, canteen, mess kit, shaving kit, rain coat, cartridge drums, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, 200 feet of line, hand axe, small spade, a complete sea bag and other negligible items. Carrying my light pack I weigh around 298 pounds. Without my light pack I weigh 142 pounds.

We are marched around the base for three or four hours. The boys who fall out are treated very well. They go to the brig for a few days where they are feasted on a repast of bread and water but they do not have to face a court-martial. At twelve o'clock those who can, limp to the sick bay. They are divided into two classes -- those who have athlete's foot and those who have colds. Those who have Athlete's foot get their feet swabbed with iodine. Those who have a cold get their throats swabbed with iodine. Anyone who claims

he has neither a cold nor athlete's foot is sent to the brig for impersonating an officer. I am very popular at the dispensary. I have both, a cold and athlete's foot. What I really have is tuberculosis but I know when to keep my mouth shut.

Well, that's all I have to write. I've got to rush to the recreation hall. We have a movie I saw ten years ago when I was in civilian life. At the end of the program we are going to have a quiz. Whoever guesses what we had for supper gets promoted to Ensign.

Love to all,

(BuPers Bulletin)

"Archie"

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR ALLOTMENT OR ALLOWANCE CHECK

Dependents Should Be Given Following Rules

Dependents of hundreds of Navy men are embarrassed each month by lack of funds resulting from failure to receive their checks in payment of family allotments and allowances or because the checks are lost after receipt.

Investigation of these cases has shown that many can be avoided by observation of the following list of "do's" and don't's" which has been prepared in the hope that it will be publicized among the hundreds of thousands of persons receiving these checks:

1. The name of the payee should be plainly visible on the mail box. If the payee is living with another family, make certain that his or her name is on the mail box, even though "in care of John Doe" has been given as a part of the address.

2. If the payee moves, he should write the postmaster of the city in which he previously resided; or, if he moves to another address in the same city, he should write his present postmaster showing, in either case, the old and new address and requesting that the checks be forwarded. The payee should also immediately advise the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts (Allotment Division) or the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts (Family Allowance Division) of the change of address, either on the forms provided for that purpose or by letter. If the payee receives both allotment and family allowance, both divisions must be notified.

3. Payees should ask their mail carrier to notify them when the checks are delivered. The carrier can do this for persons living in large apartment houses by always ringing the bell in a certain way each time he delivers the characteristic Government envelope. For persons living in rural areas and small towns, the carrier can notify them, if possible, of the check's arrival by blowing his whistle or by knocking on the door.

4. Checks should be cashed quickly, preferably on the day they are received. They shouldn't be carried around, and they shouldn't be left lying carelessly about the home.

5. The payee should take every precaution against losing a check. It might take the Government six months or a year to establish that it was actually lost and not stolen.

6. All checks should be cashed, if practicable, at the same place each month. This will simplify identification.

7. Checks should not be endorsed at home. If they are and later are lost, the payee may not be able to secure a duplicate check. Checks should not be endorsed until they are actually being presented for payment.

8. The payee should endorse his own check. If this is impossible because of illness or inability to write, some responsible friend should be charged with seeing to it that all checks are properly endorsed.

(Ed. Note.: The above was taken from BuPers Bulletin and is designed to help the families of the men on this station who have checks coming to them each month. Send the Exhaust home and call their attention to the article. Should there be enough demand for them, reprints will be made on single sheets).

BOQUETS VIA AIR MAIL

The following is one of the things that keeps the Exhaust alive. The Clipper recently brought the editorial staff a letter from Miss Irma Skinner of Norton, Kansas. "Dear Sirs," writes Miss Skinner, "You fellows have every reason to be proud of your paper, 'The Trinidad Exhaust'. With each issue there is an improvement and the editions of September 13th and 26th were quite interesting. The cartoon, 'Hirohito Reviews His Fleet' merited many compliments as well as 'The Poet's Corner' and 'A Timely Thought'. I have enjoyed reading 'The Exhaust' and I get an insight into the Navy that I don't receive in Kansas. Do keep the good work up and I'll look with anticipation for the ensuing numbers".

Miss Skinner's letter, along with others we have received from distant points, gives us the necessary boost to keep us striving to improve the paper with each issue. O. B. "Pop" Keeler, sports writer for the Atlanta Journal and Esquire has quoted the Exhaust in his column on frequent occasions and we have even made the AP. We have built up an exchange with a large number of other Navy publications. Have also started an exchange with various Army papers and, IF we ever get large enough, we are going to tackle the New York Times.

Publication of the Exhaust was temporarily suspended for a few weeks pending a re-organization of the paper and staff. The publication dates were changed from every two weeks to twice monthly and we now have sufficient personnel on the staff to cover nearly every Navy activity in Trinidad. Literary contributions are always welcome and appreciated as well as any constructive criticism you may care to express concerning the improvement of the publication.

THE MAIL SITUATION

Our Fleet Post Office unit here has outgrown itself in the past few months. A part of this can be attributed to the fact that the home folks are heeding the plea of the Post Office Department and are mailing early for Christmas. In four days there were 936 sacks of mail for this activity. Who said the mail clerks had a soft job? Chief Packam asks that all the men who have moved from one barracks to another

to drop by the Post Office at their next opportunity and check their address cards and to also inquire at the General Delivery window to see if any mail is being held for them. Lots of times the mail is sent to the barracks of the original address and if no change of address is on your address card, then your mail is put into the General Delivery box. Stop by and check up - that long-looked-for sugar report may be there.

THE NEW RECREATION HALL

Remember those five new pool tables we spoke of in the last issue? Well, they have been installed (some weeks ago) and await your pleasure. They are in the Game Room on the second deck -- it's nice and cool there -- and you can play nearly all evening on a shilling. For those who have not mastered the art of getting out from behind the 8-ball, there are ping-pong tables at either end where you can work off a few pounds trying to keep a ball full of air on a few feet of table space. However, in the event you are a mental wizard and are not inclined to such strenuous athletics, you will find the crew's library and reading room just around the corner. Several hundred new books are on hand and can be taken out on the circulating library plan. An adequate number of newspapers and magazines are on the subscription list and these are distributed throughout the room. 'Ere long there will be more writing tables and you can pen those lines to the folks back home in all the peace and quiet that one could ask for.

The bowling alleys have been completed and already the league teams are piling up high scores. The bowling alley is located just below the game room (as if you couldn't hear it) and the bowling, up to now, is being done with the heavy balls and large pins. Duckpins have been ordered for those who prefer a lighter game.

Of course, in the large auditorium will be the movie theater and gymnasium -- the place is even large enough to hold a dance every once in a while. The soda fount and cafe is on the ground floor directly under the library and will be in commission before long.

Almost forgot to mention another major activity in the building. The editorial office of this erstwhile sheet is in the library office and this should be a great help toward getting literary contributions for making up the various issues. Some evening, while you are perusing the printed page, you may come across an article you think will be of interest to all hands, or an article you have just read may give you an inspiration to write one of your own. In either case, write it down on a sheet of paper, sign it, and if it came from any of the publications give the name of the magazine or paper and the author's name. Drop it in the box outside the office door and you will have won our thanks.

A word in parting. We are most fortunate to have this swell Recreation Hall. In our opinion, it is the best in the West Indies and it is our duty to keep it in excellent condition. Don't abuse the furnishings and take good care of the equipment. The cue sticks, pingpong balls, books, etc. are hard to get these days and your carelessness or thoughtlessness in using them may cause others to be deprived of their use. After all, it is your money and the money of the folks back home that was used to purchase these items for our enjoyment. Treat them as though they were your own personal property which, in a way, they are.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FIT TO PRINT---ABOUT THOSE TROPICAL,
- TRINIDAD MARINES -

To get this opus off to a flying start, we first want to introduce the newest addition to the Leatherneck contingent here at Chagaramas. His name is Shandy, alias "Sir Lindsay", but perhaps better known as 1stSgt. "Rocky" Rocheleau's one-horse mounted patrol. You can see Shandy almost every morning on his way to a canter in the hills and usually there is a different rider astride. Pity was rife around the barracks one morning recently when Sgt. Joe Stoffa got his turn, and several unkind persons went so far as to suggest that the not-anemic quartermaster should trade places with Shandy. More horses are coming as soon as stable facilities are available.

With the arrival of several new faces at the Marine Barracks, many of the old guard---fellows who were around when the first flag was raised here over 17 months ago---have gone to other stations. Those who have departed for scenes of better liberty include MGySgt Bill Laverty, P1Sgt. Bray (of handlebar moustache fame), Sgt. Dykes, and Corporals Davenport, Gilbert, Butts, Armes and Herman. Without going into detail, let it be said for the record that the men left Trinidad with several good parties to remember. Several of the boys claimed that parting with the local belles was tough, but they didn't get any sympathy from the gang that is still here.

The first Marines on the post to be affected by the new uniform regulation (only one chevron worn on the left sleeve) are P1Sgt. Joe Gibas, Sgts. Jesse Lowe and Woody Barfield, and Corporals Long, Juba and Jedrzejczak. Their promotions came through some weeks ago. Congratulations. The QM department asserts that they are going to enforce the new regulation to the letter---or else.

The NCO's in B Barracks were worried last Thursday night when taps sounded and Gunny Ed Conwill hadn't come aboard from the first liberty he had made to Port-of-Spain in weeks. Next morning the boys were curious and accused Conwill of "pulling a Radford"(code). Conwill is still non-committal concerning his whereabouts.

Add to the list of embryo moustache-raisers three more names: Schroeder, Shugert and Stoffa. Sounds like a troupe of acrobats, doesn't it?

The Leatherneck basketball team has been having a little bad luck in current league competition, but promises to improve with practice in the new gym. In softball, the Marines are going great guns and lately smashed the JSA team by a score of 15-2 in FOUR innings. Sgt. Frank Pasko did his bit by banging out a homer in the 4th with two aboard.

Have you heard about the Irish general fighting with the Russians in Stalingrad? The name is Tim O'Shenko. (Blame it on Conwill).

-----Sgt. Sidney Epstein-----

MISCELLANEOUS

Why aren't movies made with only a beginning for those people who never stay to see "The End"?

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For many years, a popular method of suicide in Japan has been to lie down on the railroad track at night and await the next train. Another method, not uncommon, has been to run up the track and dash head-