

NO BANQUETS IN NEW GUINEA

Don't Get Idea That Boys
Are Dining in Style on
Our Sacrifices.

By GEORGE WELLER
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WITH ADVANCED AMERICAN
TROOPS IN NEW GUINEA, April
6 (Delayed).—One American air
man was killed and another wound-
ed last week by stray Japanese sol-
diers still living a vagabond exist-
ence in jungle dugouts near the
portable hospital with forward



Mr. Weller
American troops
where this writer
is at present con-
fined under treat-
ment.
But the most
disturbing phe-
nomenon during
conveyance is
under a torrid
tent in northern
Papua is not the
possibility that
the Japs may
emerge from the
surrounding
jungle seeking food and knock off
your correspondent on his canvas
cot. It is, rather, the plain Amer-
ican G. I. dogfaces who are simi-
larly obsessed with food problems
who surround the writer's cot, can
openers in hand, and peer through
the fan mosquito net demanding:

"Is this that jerk correspondent
who wrote all the so-and-so about
the rich French food we are sup-
posed to be getting here? 'We're
looking for that liar.'"

It is a combination of circum-
stances that has evolved this pecu-
liar situation that, while salvage-
minded American civilians appar-
ently reach with delight for every
tin can, the American soldier's re-
action is to wish to kick firmly in
the teeth the next man who offers
him one.

No 'Luxury Living'

Canned willy and broken crack-
ers and water flavored with orange
extract are part of the war scene
and accepted as such.

What gripes the slouch-should-
ered, green-clad, dog-faces who
are fighting off malaria, bush ty-
phus, anemia and hookworm is
being told by either letters from
well-meaning relatives in the
United States or handout thinkers
in Washington, or able trench-
men covering the Papuan war from
"somewhere in Australia"—Ameri-
can correspondents in New Guinea
now total in round numbers two—
how luxuriously he is living in the
jungle and what sacrifices are being
made by the American and Austral-
ian public to keep him fat and jolly.

Meat may be scarce and expen-
sive in America, as letter writers
tell us, but it is not because the
army in Papua is living from
Fridtjof Nansen's famous diet.
Fruits and vegetables may have
upped in price in Australia, but it
is not because the American soldier
in New Guinea is eating them up.

Temperatures Rose

One of the wardmen in the next
thatched hut received today a let-
ter from his girl saying, "tenderloins
have almost disappeared in Ameri-
ca, but we are glad to make this
small sacrifice for you to have
them."

When he read this passage to
fever patients, they were impelled
to rise and do something violent,
but only their temperatures rose.

The catalog of fresh food that
has reached your correspondent
during the past fortnight may be
interesting to those who think that
the American soldier is eating them
out of house and home. In 13 days,
your correspondent has gluttonized
on the following uncaned proven-
der: One piece of meat, one egg,
two apples, one pear, one beet, one
dish of cabbage, two split plums,
12 individual grapes. One of those
apples was obtained dishonestly but
the rest was regularly acquired.

There's Some Hope

Everything else was canned.
The situation is not without some
hopeful signs. An agricultural ex-
pert recently arrived in New Guinea
to plan the beginning of those gar-
dens which are a standard part of
the Jap peasant army's procedure.
Mike Lyons of Syracuse, who pos-
sesses a growing hand nearly as
able as his poker hand, has started
several gardens among the air corps
establishments.

But the general reaction to those
beatific statements from the United
States about how delicious de-
natured food can be is summarized
in what one dogface said yesterday
afternoon, as the writer and him-
self listened to a USO crooner sing-
ing the popular melody, "Ma, I Miss
Your Apple Pie."

"I hope," said this G. I., morosely,
"that I don't get a letter from her
tomorrow saying that she has sent
it to me already—canned."

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IF YOU HAD A NECK
AS LONG AS
THIS FELLOW
AND HAD
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DUE TO COLDS**
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WAY DOWN
TONSILINE
SHOULD QUICKLY RELIEVE IT

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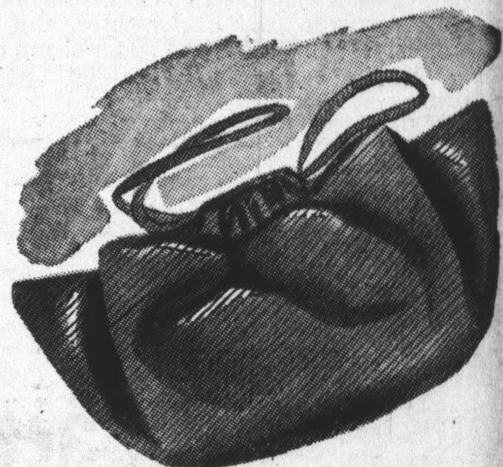
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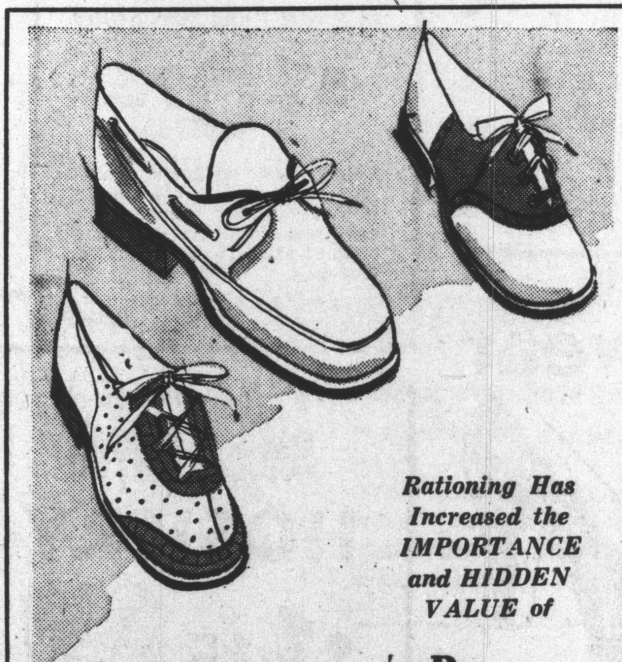


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