

GOOD BYE TO PONAM.

With the many departures from Ponam in recent weeks and the approach of 'Unicorn' to embark the remainder of us, the end of Nabaron's commission draws near.

As a very recent arrival I am in the position of being able to write in praise of Nabaron's achievements during her short career without being in danger of boasting as the credit lies elsewhere than with me.

Those who commissioned Nabaron at Ludham travelled out to the Pacific, established MONAB 4 at Ponam and ran it for over six months can look back on that period of their service career with satisfaction at an out of the ordinary job very well done.

To have been the most forward MONAB during the war period and to have been for more than half a year nearer to the Equator than Plymouth is to London are two factors which help to make the commission unusual and they also make more creditable the performance of those concerned. We shall soon be back in Australia and Nabaron will pay off. Indications now are that a voyage to the U.K. in the not so far distant future is in store.

During my time here I have been very favourably impressed with the way in which not only the Nabaron departments but all attached Units have worked harmoniously together while still retaining their individuality.

The Nabaron Spirit is a good one so take it with you to your next job whether in the Service or in "civvy street" and although when you are crossing Stonehouse Bridge in the rain cold rain) you may not actually wish yourself back at Ponam, you will, I hope, always remember Nabaron as a good ship in which to have served.

Goodbye to Ponam, good luck to you all.

(Sgn) C. J. Blake
Captain R.N.

EDITORIAL

On March 25th, 1945 Nabaron landed on what was to be our Tropical home Ponam for some eight months. The Communications Branch being the only contact with the outside world automatically took the responsibility of producing a paper and so on March 29th we tuned in to the B.B.C. and the news received became in effect the first edition of "The Jungle Echo", the first British paper printed on Ponam. At first our distribution of copies was small but with the additions of M.S.R. 4, M.S.R. 6, 1701 Squadron, 721 Squadron, M.A.T.M.U. 7 and M.M.H.U. 5 our copies eventually reached 150 per day.

While the war was on the Jungle Echo kept the Nabaronians informed of the progress made by the Allied Armies. Day by day our paper brought increasing evidence that Victory was in the making.

May 8th the news we had been waiting so long to print was received, the announcement of V. E. Day. Our headlines soon changed from Western and Eastern Fronts to Pacific Front, at that time getting very little publicity. Some place names gave us many headaches in pronunciation as well as spelling. Fortunately Mr Reader didn't forward any complaints.

When at 22.00 on August 10th we heard Japan had announced unconditional surrender it was rushed round the Camp by word of mouth far quicker than the Echo could go to press, but the V. J. copy was produced some ten days later and was inwardly digested by all. Now after 150 editions the "Jungle Echo" bids farewell. We didn't claim to be a second Daily Mirror or page three of the News of the World but we hope that we helped in a small way to bring you hot news on a----- hot island.

Before closing let me add thanks to all who rendered such great service to The Echo. Good bye. Best of luck to you all.

F. W. Train
L/Coder Editor.

Part 2

SPORT

During the stay on Ponam, soccer proved to be the main attraction. Somewhere around 400 games of this national sport have been played at the Stadium. In the League, consisting of 17 teams, Squadron Miscellaneous took the well deserved laurels with the Seamen three points behind in second place and Radilecs a good third. Visiting ships provided excellent opposition when they met the Station side and many exciting games were witnessed. Among these the teams which will forever be remembered are H.M.S. Ruler, H.M.S. Unicorn and the side which received its first defeat at our hands, H.M.S. Montclare. During the closing days at Ponam we have seen Captain Blake and his Wardroom Dodgers defeat the Jaunty's number II men. Seamen hold their own against "The Rest" and an "Under Thirty" team come out victorious against the "Over Thirty" team.

Cricket was in no way neglected. Although only played Saturdays and Sundays, the League managed to play off 88 matches and Squadron Misc. brought off the Double by finishing up as leaders of the unfinished table.

Part 3

WITH HANDKERCHIEF IN HAND OUR POET HAS COMPOSED THE FOLLOWING POEM.

"PONAM - ALPHA & OMEGA"

We looked at the Isle through squinted eyes,
From a troopship's deck 'neath tropical skies.
A Marine remarked at his first peep,
"There isn't room to drive a jeep".
The morale on board was definitely jerky,
Until the "Paybob" signalled "We're in Turkey".
As the sun went down, men scanned the shore,
For "Hedy Lamarrs" to appear by the score.
Like the dove from the Ark, the Commander sped in,
To investigate this isle of sin.
An hour elapsed, he returned from his mission,
But the look on his face denied our suspicion.
Next morn we embarked on the L.C.A.s
For Ponam's shore to spend our days.
The next seven months remained no mystery,
For Ponam Isle went down in history
To us it didn't seem so terrific
On the forward Air Base of the Pacific.
And thus completed we return
To Sydney, home and the place we yearn,
Though cynics may smile with little favour
Remember our motto was "Movere et Servire".

IS IT TRUE

That the seamen have purchased a new centre forward? We understand that Reekie shaved off on hearing this.

That the P.T.I. was swinging two beer bottles in place of Indian clubs, when celebrating his birthday last night?

OUR LAST BOUQUETS

To the "Ponam Choral Society" for giving such a grand concert at their first public appearance.

To the cinema operators at Ponam Palladium for consistently good work and for showing 81 feature films during our stay here. The final show at the Palladium is tonight and will be "Top Hat" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Part 4

INFORMATION FOR "YOU LUCKY PEOPLE"

In the "Pacific Post" appeared an article of the experience of a Naval Rating being demobed. One of his statements I thought untrue owing to information I had received at the start of my Service career. I therefore wrote to the editor of "Pacific Post" and the following is his reply:

"I have been in communication with the Supply Officer R.N.B. and he assures me that on demobilisation you will be required to return your hammock, bedding and oilskin and your two blue and two white suits. In the event of your wishing to retain the blue and white suits you will be charged 50% of their cost."

"HEEDE THE BALL"

This war cry has been heard by many soccer fans on Ponam and only today has the originator of it been found. He is the bearded Piper of Ponam A.B. Young.

N.A.A.F.I. MANAGER'S REQUEST

The canteen Manager asks all personnel to refrain from banging at his door after Thursday next as the "Ponam Trading Post" will then be officially closed.

FINIS.