

Life on Guadalcanal

Below is the third of six eye-witness reports written by Sherman Montrose, Army newspaper cameraman, who landed with the Marines on Guadalcanal last August, and whose pictures were distributed to newspapers of the country through the "photographic post." He has just returned to San Francisco from his assignment where he and his equipment are undergoing repairs.

By SHERMAN MONTROSE
Written for NEA Service
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15—Our marines, army and navy and coast guard men in the South Seas—they ain't got no "pogie-bait."



Highest bid was \$100 for 24 bars of chocolate. It was refused.

And that's what they want most of anything.

They could take the bombings and the sniping and they could get along without vegetables and fresh meat. They wouldn't yearn so much for the bright lights and the movies and the girl friends—if only they had some "pogie-bait."

Candy—just candy. And there isn't any.

It's hard to realize how keen is the craving for sweets until you've gone without "pogie-bait" for many a long month.

The term though not the craving—dates back to old sailing ship days. It seems there was a captain whose cabinboy, named "Pogie," could be bribed only with offers of candy. Hence, "Pogie-bait."

QUICKLY GET IT UP
There's no price ceiling on "pogie-bait"—because any regular supply of chocolate or any other candy doesn't exist. If and when it does, the sky's the limit.

Pilots landing on Henderson field, Guadalcanal, can ask and get their own prices if they bring in a spot of pogie-bait. Fighting men line the runways when the big B-17's land, waiting for a crack at bargaining with the men aboard.

A horse-trading marine and a sharp pilot canicker for an hour over ultimate possession of a couple of bars of gummy chocolate.

Highest bid, until the time I left, was \$100 for 24 bars of a popular brand of chocolate. The offer was refused. The chocolate was worth more. That's pogie-bait.

Standard exchange for barter purposes is Japanese money. New arrivals at Guadalcanal—and they were coming in constantly—haven't seen much of the stuff. They think it's great, and can look forward to swagging around home with it.

Your souvenir-gathering marine has pockets full of yen and sen notes as well as occupation currency, made in Tokyo and carried in, by the invaders when they first occupied the Solomons. Next in bargaining value come trophies captured from the enemy. Their monetary value is established at what you can get for them—or what you're willing to part with in exchange for pogie-bait.

ALL GOES FOR "POGIE-BAIT"
For instance, there are Japanese personal battle flags. They're fairly common, but swell souvenirs. Early in the game, the marines learned that most Japanese fighters carry two-foot squares of silk with insignia of the Rising Sun inside their helmets. Most of these are inscribed with delicately brushed names of friends and relatives.

A well-inscribed flag taken from a foe may be a marine's most treasured personal possession. But he'll trade it for pogie-bait. If you want more, the price you pay in coin of the realm may range from \$5 to \$50, but a bar of candy is worth its weight in gold.

Captured Japanese rifles—25 caliber—rate high as trade mediums. The marines have plenty of them, and in the early stages of the Solomons battle they brought fancy figures. Nipponese bayonets have a good value because they can be filed in to ferocious-looking sheath knives, and hung on the belt. They are good for in-fighting. Marines take a savage joy in using captured weapons against their original owners.

The marine who has captured a pair of Japanese field glasses, a samurai sword, a harn-kiri knife or a Jap pistol (Luger automatic) is really in a position to bargain for pogie-bait.

Only Japanese officers carry swords and pistols. These treasured items are comparatively

scarce. About \$100 U. S. money is opening barter figure.

Almost the only items the marines consider valueless are the pictures carried by the Japanese soldiers. Most of these are on the salacious side and don't appeal to the marine fighting man.

I've seen a marine take one look at a picture salvaged from the pocket of a prone foe, tear up the photo and murmur something that would curl a Jap's hair.

The aye-aye is one of the queerest monkeys in the world. A native of Madagascar, it never has been seen in daylight.

It's easier for a woman to make a man a good husband when she makes him a good wife.

Pennsylvania has the highest number of passenger vehicles registered.

Be careful of too much plumpness—it's charm gone to waste.

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



GEM STONES WITH STAR FORMATIONS IN THEM WERE BELIEVED BY THE ANCIENTS TO HAVE BEEN FORMED OF SPARKS FROM THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

lots of geysers here. Back in 1783, one-fifth of the population of this island was killed when the volcano Mt. Parí overflowed. More next week, Private Elmer

WHERE'S ELMER?

ANSWER: Iceland.

NEXT: High and low in precipitation.

SECOND U. S. PRESIDENT

HORIZONTAL
1 Pictured former president of the U. S.

- 9 Penny (pl.).
- 10 Caper.
- 12 Top of the head.
- 13 Male offspring.
- 15 Saurel.
- 17 Units of energy.
- 18 Animal.
- 19 Comprehend.
- 21 Man's name.
- 22 Wise bird.
- 23 Cornish prefix signifying town.
- 24 Like.
- 25 To cut.
- 26 His was in Braintree, Mass.
- 27 Initial (abbr.).
- 29 Blackbird.
- 30 Fragrant.
- 33 Size of shot.
- 35 Expose to moisture.

Answer to Previous Puzzle
PAVLICHENKO
CAOTI TOE AIDS
HAYOC EWE GNOME
ALE TOM DOG RAG
LID TOR BL SAS
ON TREK TIED RE
SOY OAR SOL
AMID BASIC GIRL
RARELY TEPEE
YAM JAW OPPER
MODER WOLD
PAVLICHENKO

- 12 He was the first to live in the White House.
- 14 Old Testament (abbr.).
- 16 College building.
- 17 Note in Guido's scale.
- 18 Be indebted.
- 20 Tiny.
- 22 Alop (two words).
- 25 Courtesy title.
- 26 Possessed.
- 28 Opinion.
- 30 Native metal.
- 31 Rubber tree.
- 32 Method.
- 34 Make lace.
- 37 Cooking utensils.
- 39 Let fall.
- 41 Toward.
- 42 Ireland.
- 43 Turf cut for use as fuel.
- 45 Neither.
- 47 Low haunt.
- 49 Therefore.
- 51 From.

