

Katz, Michael

4 Allentonians Meet On South Pacific Island

MAR 20 1944

Four Allentown servicemen, one of them a Lehigh University graduate, met recently on a South Pacific island in the New Caledonia area, according to letters received by

friends. They are Captain Michael Katz, Lieut. (jg) Maurice Purcell, Lieut. Abe Benioff and Corporal Alvin Federman.

Captain Katz, who is doing plastic surgery for the Medical Corps in the South Pacific, was visiting a hospital on the island at the time. Lieut. Purcell's ship had docked there for supplies before continuing on to battle, and Lieut. Benioff was at the base enroute to the mainland for a rest furlough. Only Corporal Federman was stationed there.

None had any idea that the others were on the island. First to meet were Captain Katz and Lieut. Purcell, who saw each other as the latter was coming out of a movie house. When Lieut. Benioff landed, he tried to learn if any Allentonians were about and finally contacted Captain Katz, who told him about Purcell. The three arranged a meeting and while they stood talking, Corporal Federman strolled by.

Lieut. Purcell is a graduate of Muhlenberg College, Lehigh University and University of Pennsylvania holding B. A., M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from them, respectively. He also studied in Paris and Mexico. He was commissioned last

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