

Shivek, Steven



Seventeen-months-old Kathleen Shivek and three-year-old Gay Shivek listen to their uncle, Pfc. Steven Shivek, tell how children in South Pacific climes live. The Marine, who was with the landing party in Guadalcanal, is spending a 30-day leave at his home, Fire Lane, Bethlehem R. D. 4.

Kathleen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Shivek, Bethlehem R. D. 4. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shivek, 615 Laufer Avenue, Bethlehem, are Gay's parents. —Globe-Times photo

Bethlehem Marine Saw Action Aplenty in Guadalcanal Battles

By RITA KURTZ

If you shoot at a tree in Guadalcanal, a Jap or a coconut will fall out.

Take it from Pfc. Steven Shivek, 30, fifth Marine to hit the beach during first landing operations the past summer. He is spending a 30-day leave, with his mother, Mrs. Eva Toth, Fire Road, Bethlehem R. D. 4.

The Marine spent five months in Guadalcanal, before being transferred to Australia. He has been in Panama, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands since he re-enlisted 18 months ago. From 1934 to 1938, Private Shivek saw "over half the world" during his first taste of Marine life. He was with the Reserve Corps in the interim, while employed with Bethlehem Steel Company.

Even in Australia, the Bethlehem native kept abreast with home-town news.

READ GLOBE-TIMES

"While I was in the hospital, one of the nurses—Lt. Anna Mesko, who lived at 1711 East Second Street here, used to let me read her Globe-Times. That was really something," he declared when he was interviewed today.

Hospitalization was frequent for

the Marine. He had malaria nine times while he was "down under."

He must report to a hospital in San Diego, Calif., July 30, where he was lodged before the trip East.

"Don't let anybody fool you about the Japs, telling you that they're puny," he said.

"We had to handle lots of them over six feet tall. They're stiff fighters too. Some of the commanding officers will commit hari kari—yes, I've seen them do it—but the men behind don't give up."

He was smoking a cigarette as he spoke.

"Once I tried the cheapest cigarette made in the States. Well, the cigarettes the Japs smoke are 10 times lousier than the worst here," he mused.

How many Japs has he killed?
"That's something you don't talk about."

PLENTY OF CLOSE CALLS

Close calls?
"Some of them so close that the hair stood away from my head, like hearing bullets whiz inches past my ear, and having my helmet taken off by the concussion of a shell."

Anxious to get back?
"Like a bride-to-be is anxious to

put on her gown and veil!"
Marines are peeved, wording it mildly, with John L. Lewis and strikers. They should consider the conditions and the pay servicemen get," he asserted.

"Imagine how a fighting man feels when he goes three days, at times, with no sleep, or when he does sleep, it's always with one eye open, when he puts up with miserable discomforts, but he doesn't take time to think about them—and when he gets a paper from home, it has that kind of news!"

ON AUSSIE GIRLS

Australian girls are behind the times, compared with American girls, so far as make-up and clothing are concerned, the private said. He mentioned stockingless legs for an example, and was surprised, and interested, to learn about leg make-up his countrywomen are wearing.

Two medals he wears are for expert pistol shooting and sharpshooting.

"And in the Solomons, your rifle is your best friend," he smiled.

On his coat Pfc Shivek wears ribbons denoting presidential citation, good conduct, defense, and Southwest Pacific action, besides a sleeve stripe for four years of service.

After the war, Private Shivek wants to settle in Bethlehem.

"I've been all over the country, and I used to think that I wouldn't come back to stay. But I was born and raised here, it's my home, and it's got me," he explained.

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