

# The Sydney Morning Herald.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1924. 11 PAGES. 1000 A.M.

**SUMMARY.**

**LOCAL.** - The New Zealand Press Association has received the following from Fanning Island: The three men who were picked up on Christmas Island by H.M.S. New Zealand are at present the guests of the Fanning island cable staff, recuperating from their terrible privations during the past year. They were left on the island by the boat, Father Rougier, in the middle of 1923, with a scanty stock of provisions, and the promise of a relieving ship within 90 days. The manager of Rougier's plantation, Mr. English, a French youth, and a Tahitian, were the only inhabitants. They were almost dead when the New Zealand appeared. The island party, which included Admiral Jellicoe, was held up by Mr. English, clad only in a tattered pair of shorts, patched with a rag. Lord Jellicoe was amused by the entire spectacle he presented, holding up a watch with a revolver. Lord Jellicoe personally interested himself in the hardships suffered by the party, and had a long talk with Mr. English. Lady Jellicoe read his diary. The commander of the New Zealand had his effort working all night copying charts, and meteorological reports were made during the enforced stay on the island. The map showed the position of various wrecks on Christmas Island, which is a veritable deathtrap of the Pacific. Debris was found of eight wrecks, while millions of feet of lumber, mostly in good condition, lay strewn on the shores.

**THE SITUATION OF THE MARRIED PARTY WAS THEIR POSSESSION OF THREE SUBMERSIBLES WHICH WERE NEEDED FOR TRAVELLING AND DISABLING BETWEEN THE SCATTERED COASTAL GROVES. THE UNFORTUNATES HAD THE MEANS OF TRAVELLING DE LUXE, YET HAD NO CLOTHES, VIRTUALLY NO FOOD, AND NO COMFORTS. RATS SWARMED EVERYWHERE, AND AT FIRST HAD DEVoured THE PILLOWS AND BLANKETS WHILE THE MEN SLEPT. MR. ENGLISH SAID HE WOULD GLADLY EXCHANGE THE SUBMERSIBLES FOR A CLEAN SHIRT, A PAIR OF PANTS, AND THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO SHAVE. HE ENABLED HIM TO WELCOME HIS DISTINGUISHED VISITOR AND HIS SATELITE WITH SOME AMBIVALENCE OF FEELING, INSTEAD OF HIS HABITUARY COURTESY AND RESPECT.**

**MR. ENGLISH'S DIARY WAS FAITHFULLY KEPT ALL THE TIME ON THE ISLAND. IT CONTAINED COARSE PATHETIC IN THEIR HOPELESSNESS DAY BY DAY. HE STATED THAT HE WAS LOOKING, LONGING, AND PRAYING FOR A SHIP TO ARRIVE. DISTRESS AND ILL-HEALTH FROM EXPOSURE, WRETCHEDNESS, AND POOR FOOD NEARLY DROVE THE MEN CRAZY. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO EAT ANY MORE WERE IT NOT FOR THE SUBMERSIBLES.**

**LORD JELICOE PRESENTED MR. ENGLISH WITH HIS PHOTOGRAPH, SAYING: "YOUR WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER HEARD OF YOU. YOU MUST HAVE A DIME MEMENTO." IT WAS ENDORSED "TO JOSEPH ENGLISH, FROM JELICOE, ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET."**

**THE NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING FROM FANNING ISLAND:**

**THE THREE MEN WHO WERE PICKED UP ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND BY H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND ARE AT PRESENT THE GUESTS OF THE FANNING ISLAND CABLE STAFF, RECUPERATING FROM THEIR TERRIBLE PRIVATIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR.**

**THEY WERE LEFT ON THE ISLAND BY THE BOAT, FATHER ROUGIER, IN THE MIDDLE OF 1923, WITH A SCANTY STOCK OF PROVISIONS, AND THE PROMISE OF A RELIEVING SHIP WITHIN 90 DAYS. THE MANAGER OF ROUGIER'S PLANTATION, MR. ENGLISH, A FRENCH YOUTH, AND A TAHITIAN, WERE THE ONLY INHABITANTS. THEY WERE ALMOST DEAD WHEN THE NEW ZEALAND APPEARED. THE ISLAND PARTY, WHICH INCLUDED ADMIRAL JELICOE, WAS HELD UP BY MR. ENGLISH, CLAD ONLY IN A TATTERED PAIR OF SHORTS, PATCHED WITH A RAG.**

**LORD JELICOE WAS AMUSED BY THE ENTIRE SPECTACLE HE PRESENTED, HOLDING UP A WATCH WITH A REVOLVER. LORD JELICOE PERSONALLY INTERESTED HIMSELF IN THE HARSHIPS SUFFERED BY THE PARTY, AND HAD A LONG TALK WITH MR. ENGLISH. LADY JELICOE READ HIS DIARY. THE COMMANDER OF THE NEW ZEALAND HAD HIS EFFORT WORKING ALL NIGHT COPYING CHARTS, AND METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS WERE MADE DURING THE ENFORCED STAY ON THE ISLAND. THE MAP SHOWED THE POSITION OF VARIOUS WRECKS ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND, WHICH IS A VERITABLE DEATHTRAP OF THE PACIFIC. DEBRIS WAS FOUND OF EIGHT WRECKS, WHILE MILLIONS OF FEET OF LUMBER, MOSTLY IN GOOD CONDITION, LAY STREWN ON THE SHORES.**

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## THREE MEN RESCUED

### BY LORD JELICOE.

#### PRIVATIONS ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

**WELLINGTON, Sunday.**

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The story of the situation of the married party was their possession of three submersibles which were needed for travelling but disabling between the scattered coastal groves. The unfortunates had the means of travelling de luxe, yet had no clothes, virtually no food, and no comforts. Rats swarmed everywhere, and at first had devoured the pillows and blankets while the men slept. Mr. English said he would gladly exchange the submersibles for a clean shirt, a pair of pants, and the means with which to shave. He enabled him to welcome his distinguished visitor and his satelete with some ambivalence of feeling, instead of his habitual courtesy and respect.

Mr. English's diary was faithfully kept all the time on the island. It contained coarse pathetic in their hopelessness day by day. He stated that he was looking, longing, and praying for a ship to arrive. Distress and ill-health from exposure, wretchedness, and poor food nearly drove the men crazy. They would have been unable to eat any more were it not for the submersibles.

Lord Jellicoe presented Mr. English with his photograph, saying, "Yours was the last time I ever heard of you. You must have a dime memento." It was endorsed "To Joseph English, from Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet."

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