

Marine Reporter Blechman Finds War Correspondent's Job No Easy Assignment

(The following story was written by Staff Sergeant Earle W. Johnson, of 224½ Main Street (North) Little Rock, Ark., a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent.)

GUADALCANAL — (Delayed)— A Marine Corps combat correspondent without a typewriter is about as handicapped as a tobacco auctioneer with lockjaw . . . so, herein lies the story of how two correspondents safeguarded their machines as well as their reportorial status.

The characters depicted in this experience are not fictitious, and any similarity between it and those of other correspondents is not coincidental, because they have suffered the same.

When it was first learned that our outfit was to make an ocean voyage in the South Pacific, my colleague, Staff Sergeant Solomon I. Blechman, son of Rev. and Mrs. Nathan Blechman of 530 Palmer Avenue, Mamaroneck, N. Y. and I decided to have our typewriters put in crates and sent along with other gear. But fear that they might get lost or damaged caused us to change our minds, and we decided to carry them.

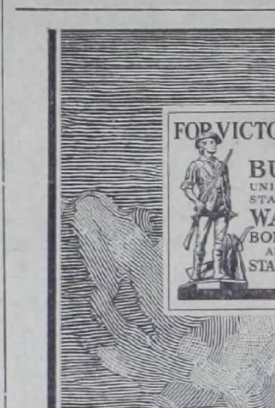
Too, I knew that should I lose my machine and fail to produce, the wrath of Washington Headquarters might cause my reversion to private first class. I realized also that if I came back home wearing only one stripe my wife wouldn't stop with the kitchen

stove when she started heaving things.

With a 60-pound transport pack on our backs, rifles, ammunition, a ruck-sack filled with paper and 20-pound typewriters, we walked a mile to the waiting train. Trudging along with sagging knees and bent backs I realized then the mythological Atlas, the guy I used to admire, didn't have a thing on the ball.

I am convinced to this day that if the fellows hadn't given us a hand on to and off the train, we would still be at the station. There was an easy way we could have gotten off the coach but I am doubtful if we could have lifted ourselves from the prone position.

We had to walk another mile to



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