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Washington

President Nixon reminisced yesterday about spending months on a Pacific island with New Zealand troops during World War II without drinkingw ater.

"We had to drink something else and we didn't

"We had to drink something else, and we didn't have much of that," Mr. Nixon told visiting Prime Minister Norman E. Kirk of New Zealand.

The President, a U.S. naval officer during the war, said that during his stay with New Zealand forces on Green Island members of the group developed fungus infections because they were unable to bathe for four or five months.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, participating n the meeting with Kirk, said jokingly that "it sounds like a British university."

Mr. Nixon recalled the experience while posing for photographs with Kirk before to a formal conference.

Associated Press