



Official Bulletin

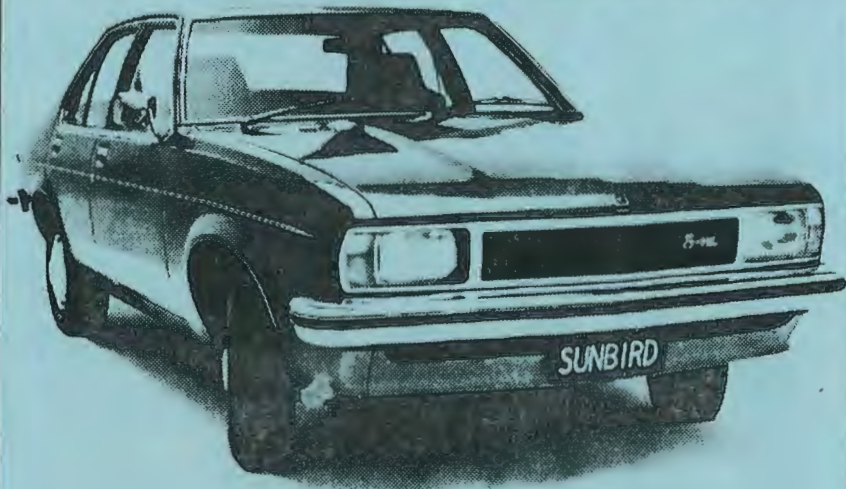
of

MARLBOROUGH

RETURNED SERVICES ASSN.

20c

Best deal in town on a beautiful new Holden Sunbird.



These new Sunbirds with RTS are probably the most significant new cars to come out in years. Features alone mark them as something exceptional. But Radial Tuned Suspension is the biggest thing to have happened to the car industry since independent suspension.

So if you're looking for a significantly better deal on a significantly better car, come in and see us. We'll give you the best terms going, easy payments, top trade-in values, and the assurance of the GM Warranty. Come on down now! You have to test drive this one to feel for yourself the incredible difference RTS makes.

New Holden Sunbird with Radial Tuned Suspension



TERRY MOTORS LTD

LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER

55-59 SCOTT STREET BLENHEIM N.Z.

Editorial

Meals: When next in town for the day, drop into the R.S.A. for a light lunch. A meal will be available daily between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. during a trial period. The caterers are R.S.A. members, so during the period of the experiment, we won't be charging them for the use of our kitchen facilities and power, and won't be taking any profit from the venture. If the idea catches on, then we will need to spend money on cutlery, crockery and some new kitchen equipment, at which stage we will commence bargaining to recover our costs at that stage. We will also be looking at the feasibility of evening meals and entertainment.

Club Alterations: Some inconvenience will be caused to members during alterations to the roof in the billiard room and then later in the main bar. Each room in turn will be closed off for a period, so to ease the crowding (and to fit in with meals), tables will be re-arranged to allow the maximum seating. The Pavilion Lounge will have to be opened during peak periods and the T.V. room also brought into use as a lounge. As soon as alterations are completed, the rooms will be re-decorated and this, of course, will add to the period of temporary overcrowding.

PAUL BRODIE
EDITOR

WANTED URGENTLY

War Time stories, surely you must have some interesting happenings to report on from the War. Stories of funny happenings inside or outside the Club. Jokes etc.

If you have anything to Sell, Swap or you Want to Buy - Want Work or Offer Work - use Crossfire - it costs only 50 cents which goes to Hospital Comforts.

If you have any of these articles please hand them into the office or post them to P.O. Box 335, Blenheim.

Country members have been sent an invitation to have "Crossfire" posted out each month at a cost of \$3.85 per annum which includes postage. Anyone else interested can make the same arrangement through the office.

Presidents Page

Since the last issue of Crossfire, Keith Jamieson has retired after 14 years of valuable and loyal service. We all wish him a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him in the Club from time to time.

On the 11th January, the Executive invited members and friends to a farewell function in his honour. The large gathering showed the esteem in which he is held. A presentation was made on behalf of all club members and also a presentation from Picton sub-branch and all R.S.A. Sports Sections. The Women's Section is to honour him at a later date.

Mr Paul Brodie, who took over on the 15th January, is settling in quietly and I am sure is going to be a great asset to Marlborough R.S.A.

As most members know, our subs fell due on 1st January 1979. I have been asked what happens to our subs - what are they used for etc. So I will endeavour to give a quick run-down on what happens to them. (These figures are only approximate - I am no back yard accountant), but they will be within a dollar or two. We collect \$5316 from 1329 members; we pay \$4149.60 capitation on 1482 members @ \$2.80 per head. We return \$2 per head to the branches for them to run their affairs; this accounts for another \$800. So we finish up with \$366.40 - not enough to pay half our postage and telephone for a year.

This year, for the first time ever we had to draw on our general account to subsidise our Christmas Welfare Grants, to the tune of \$500 I think. I can see this becoming a recurring expense and will have to be budgeted for in the future.

My congratulations to Mr Vern Anderson and Mr Ian Burson on being awarded the coveted Gold Star. Vern did many years on the Nelson R.S.A. Executive including a term as vice president before transferring to Marlborough, where he has done sterling work for the Rifle Club and in later years as chairman of our Charter Committee. He is also a past president of Marlborough R.S.A.

I was very pleased to see Ian Burson's many years of work for R.S.A. recognised. It is hard to gain recognition at branch level, especially a small and isolated branch as Rai Valley. Ian has been branch secretary, welfare officer and Heritage representative for 29/30 years, as well as arranging Anzac Day services in the Rai and tending the local services cemetery. We all remember the "Smokos" he used to organise. Here is a man who really has₂ put something into R.S.A.

Marlborough R.S.A. is to host a pension seminar on the 25th February. We expect our Dominion President, Mr D. Leuchars, and Secretary, Mr C. Penny as well as Mr P. Burrell to be present, together with other speakers. This is open to everyone interested. Here is your chance to get your questions answered by experts. I would like to see as many members as possible there. The seminar will start at 10 a.m. and finish at approximately 4 p.m.

I was perturbed to hear our head steward was abused recently when he closed the bar at the hour stated on the extended hours permit. Members must realise that the hours are laid down by the District Magistrate and must be strictly adhered to. A repetition of such behaviour will result in the members concerned being asked to appear before the Executive.

As part of R.S.A. policy to assist youth, "Ike" Cameron has embarked on a campaign to raise funds to buy shorts and jerseys for our Primary School Reps, as well as to assist Primary School rugby in general. He has arranged for Mr Russ Thomas, Manager of the 1978 All Blacks to give a talk on the 1978 Tour of Great Britain, as well as films of earlier All Black games. As well as our local All Blacks, it is hoped other All Blacks will be attending. Grandfathers, here is

 **DALGETY TRAVEL**

T
R
A
V
E
L

T
R
A
V
E
L

**Offer You The Complete Travel Service
Whether It Be A Ferry Ticket To
Wellington Or A Round The World
Holiday. We Have The Knowledge
And Expertise To Help You.
Call And See IAN NIGHTINGALE, RITA
WORKMAN Or RAEWYN ASHWELL At**

 **DALGETY TRAVEL**
77 MARKET STREET, BLENHEIM
P.O. BOX 142. TELEPHONE 6299

your chance to take your grandson out to meet some All Blacks. A collection will be taken up during the evening which is to be held on the 25th February in the Bohally School Hall. Starting time will be advertised later. This is a worthy cause which warrants your support.

There has been growing requests for meals to be served in the Club. To meet this demand, our Secretary has arranged for meals to be served between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m starting on 5th February.

I would remind members we have a hot shower at the east end of the building with towel and soap available from the bar at a cost of 20 cents.

The ladies toilets at the west end of the clubrooms have been completed except for the laying of the carpet. I am sure the ladies will appreciate them.

In spite of a lengthy roll of honour, our membership for the year has increased by over thirty. Perhaps this will ease Quo Vadis' disappointment a little.

KEN YEALANDS

The minister, who had just joined the golf club, turned up at the first tee looking like any other Saturday-morning player in his sport shirt and slacks. He had difficulty in finding a partner, though, until he was finally approached by a man who suggested that they play a round together for two dollars a hole.

The clergyman agreed but soon regretted his decision as he began to lose every hole. Upon seeing the minister change back into clerical garb at the end of the game, the man muttered apologetically, I'm sorry, Reverend, but I wouldn't have taken your money if I had known you were a preacher. You see, I'm the club pro."

"That's quite all right," said the minister benignly. "To prove there are no hard feelings, you bring your parents around sometime and I'll be glad to marry them."

KIWI CATERING Co Ltd

For All Weddings

- Parties

- Socials

62 MAIN STREET BLENHEIM

Phone 4982

BUSINESS MACHINES (Services) LTD

For all REPAIRS

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

WEIGHING SCALES

BATHROOM SCALES

Phone 5985 after hours 88913

MEMORIES OF AN OLD SOLDIER

Death of Perce Tierney - 29th October 1978

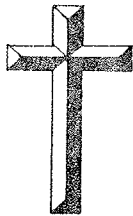
Brings back memories of W.W.I. In these late years, one hesitates to write about happenings of so long ago because any tales that I can tell have most likely been told many times before.

Friends, mates, pals, cobbers - call them what you like and the comfort and support they give to each one of us is known to us all. But in war time and especially when knee deep in mud in the trenches of France, good mates were worth more than money in the bank.

There were six of us who kept together whenever possible. They were Perce Tierney, Son Henderson, Nugget Robinson and myself all of the Havelock area. Also Alex Boyd and Jack Mackle, both of Kaikoura.

When we arrived in France, Nugget was taken from us and sent to work in a saw mill. The rest of us were lucky enough to stay together and after three months I had to leave them and go into hospital. We all got to know the Ypres area very well and I expect there are others who still remember place names such as Hell Fire Corner, Menin Road, Burr Cross Road with Big Bertha the 12 in Naval gun mounted there. Then a bit further on there was Huge Crator, Dead Mule Gulley, The Corduroy Road, Black Watch Corner, and of course, The Butts. The Corduroy Road, this was made of saplings placed together over soft ground to enable our guns etc to get to forward positions. Jerry had his guns trained on these roads and our Maoris had a full time job keeping them repaired. The old Pioneer was a very quick mover in every way. We used to say that they knew when Jerry pulled the trigger - it was a case of now you see them and now you don't and they were back on the job before the smoke cleared.

After being in Etaples for about a week, we started on our way and after many hours in a slow train, we began our march. This lasted until about 1 o'clock in the morning. Our officer then halted us and said "There is a paddock out there. Be back here by 9 o'clock". Perce got our gang together and said "Follow me". We were lucky as we



LAST POST

C.H.N.Mottram	602931
R.J.Diamanti	17391
R.W.Wallace	31556
O.R.Hebberd	55746
T.A.Mead	9819
S.H.Anderson	18323
J.R.Findlater	43384
R.I.Rowan	423063
R.L.Stent	39686

"At the going down of the sun . . .
We will remember them."



*THEY GAVE THEIR ALL
AS WE WHO ARE LEFT DID NOT
FORGET THEM NEVER OR BE
YOURSELVES FORGOT.*

NEW MEMBER 14634336 D.R.J. Wood (Kaikoura)

This magazine will be published between 8/10th of each month and available from the Bar. Closing date for any contributions is by the 30th of the previous month.

**Support the
Advertisers**

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE

found a shed with a loft of hay and plenty of apples. We filled our tummies and we were soon fast asleep. We were all a bit concerned that we might over sleep and miss roll-call, but we need not have worried because the farmer and his lady saw to that lot. We learnt quite a bit of French as time went on, but we never were able to find the words they used on us. Each move after this brought us nearer the real thing, and it wasn't long before we were on our way right to the front line. This was the real thing and our first real test - tired, cold, wet, hungry - yes and frightened. This was when real mates stood together and I am sure if it hadn't been for them I would have died from exhaustion on that first night. Next morning, we had our issue of rum and every morning while up in the front line. Alex wouldn't drink his, but it didn't go to waste.

Our night duty was one hour on, two hours off. Perce and I found a cave-in in the side of a trench, so we huddled in there and on the third night I said to Perce that the ground seemed a bit springy. We had a look next day, and sure enough there was a body just under the surface. Perce had that place to himself from then on!

He was different to the rest of us, nothing seemed to worry him. Never showed fear and I always felt safer when near him. Duty up in the front line was usually for seven days, but on this one we had to stay for twelve. Almost all manoeuvres were done at night and what with shellholes, water, mud and darkness, one thinks back and wonders how we made it. This is where super men step forward. We had some in our lot (just had that little bit extra and Perce Tierney was one of these). A lot of men owed their thanks to him on that trip, and I remember our officer doing just that. Fatigue parties used to lay duckboards over these areas, but they didn't last long - the German gunners soon fixed them. We had our turn at all jobs.

Now I am the only one left. Perce was the last to go. Alex was killed in France, but the rest of us came back and we had many meetings. Memories, yes many of them. How Son and I were shown over Capetown by two pretty girls and how shy old Jack was. He would always look for a way to escape. Alex was just the same, so must have been something to do with the Kaikoura air.

Back in England, we had Sling Camp with its bull ring where they trained us, and those Sergeant Majors - the words and names they used on us. Don't know what our Mums and Dads would have thought if they had heard - especially our Mums. Our ship to England was the Athenis and about four days out from Capetown, we struck a bad storm. This broke the ropes holding the lid of a tank holding phosphorus which burst into flames. We had three days leave at Capetown while repairs were done to the decking.

I have mentioned The Butts several times. Everyone of this sector knew this landmark so well. It was an earth mound about 100 ft high and it had been hollowed out inside and a well dug down to good water.

When holding forward positions, we used to get our drinking water there - it was a hot spot - many a soldier lost his life in that area. Can't remember Jerry shelling the actual mound - I expect he had ideas of using it again but I don't think we were so kind.

CHARLIE COLEMAN
MAHAKIPAWA, MARLBOROUGH

WHAT A DREAMER!

Overheard in the Club. "My wife has a mini skirt, a mini car and a mini poodle. I wish she had a mini mouth as well."

INCOMPLETE

A man is incompleated until he's married, then he's finished.

CHILD'S MISQUOTE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father which art in Heaven. How did you know my name?"

LUCKY

"How's your new girlfriend?"

"Not so good"

"You always were lucky!"

RUBBISH REMOVAL

WE CAN REMOVE YOUR DOMESTIC OR INDUSTRIAL REFUSE.
WE WILL LEAVE YOU A 44 GALLON DRUM WITH A LID.
WHICH COSTS YOU ONLY \$1-50 FOR US TO EMPTY.
ON A PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY BASIS.

GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD, BUSINESS PAPERS ETC.

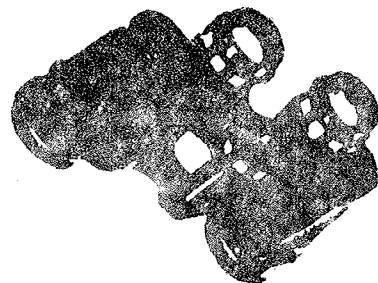
HOUSEOWNERS - HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME, LET US
TAKE YOUR RUBBISH TO THE DUMP, ALSO SAVE
CAR RUNNING COSTS.

FLAT OWNERS AND RENTERS - SHARE WITH YOUR
NEIGHBOURS, CONCESSIONS ON MULTITUDE DRUMS.

RENT A DRUM

PHONE BLACK, 88-487 ANYTIME

THIS MONTHS PERSONALITY



WILLIAM BATEMAN

BORN BUCKINGHAM ENGLAND ON 31st JANUARY 1897

He emigrated to New Zealand with his parents and sisters at the age of 15. Bill's father managed Parkes Cycle shop in Lower High Street prior to opening his own cycle shop near the present Union Co. office.

Bill's first job was at the Marlborough Express putting papers through a rotary press. After about 12 months in this job, he decided to learn the cycle trade and went to work with his father until joining up in 1917. During this period Bill joined the Municipal Band.

He first went into camp at Featherston sailing from Picton in the "Opawa" with about 40 other men on their way to camp. They had a terrible trip across the Straits during which the stewards removed the oil lamps in case they came crashing down, leaving the men in total darkness. This was the same "Opawa" that sailed up the river to Blenheim for many years after the war. When her days were over, the "Opawa" was beached at the Wairau Bar and was washed out to sea during a flood.

Bill left N.Z. with the 2nd Canterbury Battalion as a Lewis gunner sailing in the "Wimaroa", to England via Albany. All troops were very seasick in the Australian Bight, finally landing at Plymouth in a dense fog. Other Blenheim men aboard were Roy Ewart, Ernie Clifford and Roy Mears.

Travelled to France and went into action in the Ypres salient where he was badly burnt about the face and arms with mustard gas. Was evacuated after a couple of days delay in Calais on account of a sub scare. Landed at Dover and was sent to St Marks hospital, a clearing station for colonial troops. Was transferred to Walton-on-Thames, a N.Z. hospital, and then to Codsford convalescence camp, where Dr Buck, the Maori doctor was in charge. Taken ill at Codsford, he was sent to Hornshurch and was there when armistice was signed. It was here that the black "flu" epidemic killed many N.Z. soldiers awaiting transport home.

Sailed for N.Z. in "Oxfordshire" via Suez Canal, calling at Colombo to re-coal. Coaling was carried out by natives carrying coal on board in big wicker baskets. All troops had two days leave for sight-seeing - most were deeply shocked by the living conditions of the natives.

Sailed home through Torres Strait and landed at Auckland to a hero's welcome. The Auckland women-folk had tables laden with food to which the troops did full justice after the troop-ship fare. Travelled to Wellington by troop train, where his mother and father were there to meet him. Returned to Blenheim and took over his father's cycle shop working it until 1923 when he bought Roy Crooks cycle business with a Soldier's loan, which he proudly says was paid back within 12 months. He also re-joined the band, playing with them for 12 years. During this time, he went to Dunedin with them. They contested the "A" Grade section finishing sixth out of twelve entrants. Bill still regrets pressure of business forced his retirement from the band. Bill was also a member of the Anglican Church Choir for 28½ years and also belonged to the Operatic Society taking part in "The Quaker Girl", "Merry Widow" and "The Arcadians" thoroughly enjoyed opera, in which he sang tenor. Ill-health of his parents whom he was looking after at this time caused his resignation from the Operatic Society.

Joined the Air Force in 1939, a guard serving at Woodbourne, Levin and H.Q. Wellington. Was discharged in 1944 and returned to Blenheim. Worked at Beatsons factory as a wood-turner on a lathe built by his father, until retiring in 1947.

He is a keen bowler being a foundation member as well as a Life Member of Marlborough R.S.A. Bowling Club. Still plays bowls and intends going on playing for many years yet.

Bill speaks very highly of the Marlborough R.S.A. where he is widely known and has many friends. Rides his bike down to the Club, mows his own lawns and keeps the section tidy.

Bill never married, but I have been told that he was a very presentable young man, much sort after by the fair-sex.

THANKS REG

REVIEW OF "CROSSFIRE" FOR APRIL ISSUE OF REVIEW

Thanks to the interest enthusiasm and initiative of C.M.J. (Reg) Watson who has already written several articles for Crossfire, including the 25 year history of the Marlborough R.S.A. Men's Indoor Bowling Club and the 16 year history of the Diggers Indoor Bowling Tournament, and has an unusual story accepted for the February issue of Review and a further story for the April issue. Reg who has been corresponding with Jim Henderson, Editor of Unofficial, for Review and keen to get wider and national recognition of our fledgling magazine, which in his opinion is doing a splendid job of communication and disseminating news of the many phases of R.S.A. Club life has supplied Jim Henderson with the first five copies of Crossfire who has received them with great enthusiasm and comment, the result being that Crossfire will feature in the April issue of Review.

Thanks, Reg, keep up the good work, much appreciated.

... REMEMBER THIS ONE ... Four distinguished looking gentlemen found themselves in a compartment of a train travelling from London to Edinburgh. The cold British atmosphere where each guardedly sizes up the others, lasted for some time until one said to the others, "Look we are in this compartment together for a long time yet. Let's get a conversation going by relating who we are and what we do." All agreed and the first one began - "Well, I'm a Brigadier in the British Army. I have a lovely wife I'm very fond of and three sons we're proud of". The second of the group then gave his account - "I too am a Brigadier in the Army. I too am happily married and I too have three sons all following professional careers". The third of them then began - "What a strange co-incidence, I also am a Brigadier, have a terrific wife and three sons anyone would be proud of". The three turned to the last of the group expectantly and he said - "Well I'm sorry to disappoint you but I'm a New Zealand Sergeant Major. I have never married, but I have three sons and they're all Brigadiers!"

DEFAULTERS ! !

Letters have gone out to all members in arrears inviting them to rejoin on payment of \$4.00 for arrears and \$4.00 for current subs - a sort of arms amnesty!

PICKERING REAL ESTATE AGENCY LIMITED A.R.E.I.N.Z.

Thinking of retirement? What about Port Underwood. We have listed in a lovely bay, with road access, a two level home, with sea views from the upstairs balcony which is arrived at through a large carpeted lounge, on this level is the kitchen and one bedroom. The ground level consists of a large garage workshop plus room for two bedrooms. There is also a 120 cub ft freezer room. If you are a fisherman or retired and keen on fishing this could be the home for you. \$42,000.

A delightful home at Karaka Point, handy to the water and with use of a jetty, this lovely spot has a panoramic view down the Sounds, and is within easy driving distance of Picton. The house comprises a large lounge, kitchen and sleeping for six in a holiday atmosphere that would be hard to find anywhere. Asking price \$49,800.

49 HIGH STREET
PICTON N.Z.

R. J. PICKERING, MANAGER

TELEPHONES
BUSINESS 508-S
PRIVATE 508-M
961

Two loosies, two tighties
and a fullback
unanimously* agree
Lion Beer is best



** Well, almost unanimously*

Lion Beer

If you know what's good for you

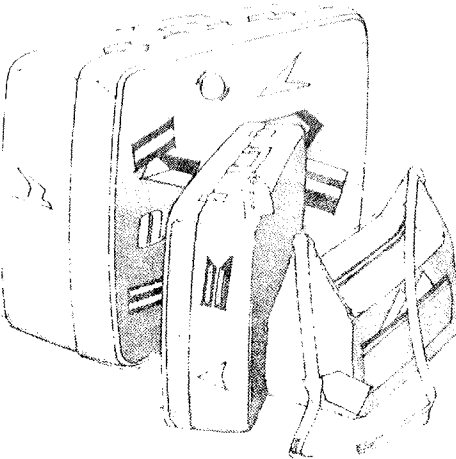


WHAT A LINE

Max Synnott's latest visit to the Doctor almost floored the Medical Man. The Doc asked him how much beer he drank and Max said, "A fair bit" - "What, a gallon a day?" - "Hell Doc, I spill that much in a day."

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS We all congratulate Jim Furness - on his award of Member of the Order of the British Empire. An honour we all know was well merited.



**We'll pack up
your troubles**

ANZ Travel


Getting away on holiday takes quite an amount of organizing. Particularly if you're about to embark on an over-seas trip.

Let ANZ handle the details for you. We have many years of experience in the travel business. From hotel booking through to road, sea, air or rail tickets, visas and health certificate requirements - we can arrange every detail for you.

At ANZ Travel there's a big difference. We're always ready to lend an ear and answer any question. We know from experience that sorting out the small details means a smooth start to your holiday.

Enquire now at one of the ANZ Travel Centres below:

Auckland: 101 Queen and 101-103a Streets Phone 367 3000
South Auckland: 42 Atkinson Ave. (Palmyra) Phone 343 6274
Wellington: 52 Willis Street Phone 222 5000
Christchurch: 85 Haddington Street Phone 222 2000



ANZ BANK
Ready to listen-Ready to help.

TO BLENHEIM BY SHIP

It may not be generally known that ships have been trading up the Opawa River to Blenheim since 1849, when two schooners the TRIUMPH and the OLD MAN discharged cargoes inside the boulder bank at the Port of Wairau and then with the aid of horses dragged the laden ship's boats up the river.

Later, the river was opened up to allow access to Blenheim when an earthquake in 1855 caused a widening of the river bed and subsequently improvement in navigation.

Ships like the schooners GIPSY and MARY soon became a familiar sight along the Opawa to be followed by other schooners like RAPID, NECROMANCER, ALERT, FALCON and the ketch SUPPLY.

Steam was introduced to the trade when the TASMANIAN MAID of 84 tons a paddle wheeler, used the Wairau only to become stranded in 1862, the year she was taken over by the Colonial Government and converted to a gun boat for operations on the Waikato during the land wars of that troubled area.

However, the paddle steamer LYTELTON of 78 tons was the first up the Opawa river to Blenheim to herald the beginnings of a regular trade across the Cook Strait to Wellington, she also stranded in the Wairau three years before she sank in French Pass in 1886.

The NAPIER was the first screw steamer to Blenheim and she maintained a link with other ports in the 1890's as did the 39 ton PANIA and the 150 ton BLENHEIM, better known to many of us as the TAMATEA which had been previously named AWARUA.

This little steamer ended her days on the mud of Vila Harbour in the New Hebrides, being dismantled by a French company after stranding. However, it is of more recent times and better known ships of the Opawa that I wish to discuss, ships of the well-known Eckford family of Blenheim.

We look at a time when the inter-island trade meant more cargo than the holds would accommodate, of a time before the ARAMOANA and coasters were hard pressed to find a period when they could under-go a survey.

Ships like the ENERGY of 57 tons and built at Hokitika in 1899 or the KIRIPAKA built in Auckland in 1894 are not familiar to us but some may remember the MAY HOWARD, later OMAKA, lost with all her six hands at Wellington Heads in 1921 after only a year of ownership by Eckfords or maybe you recall the MAGIC, an auxilliary schooner lost also in 1921 at Pencarrow but not then owned by the Blenheim company. The steamer OPAWA comes next to mind, built in Wellington by T.S. Dixon in 1897, she served her entire 48 years in Eckford's service, a very worthy servant indeed.

Continued on Page 20

Mayfield Butchery
&
Grove Road Butchery



Processors of
Beef Pork & Mutton

Bacon & Ham Curing

Also Small Goods

**For all your meat
requirements see us**

Letters to the Editor

This is Your CLUB HAVE YOUR SAY

Dear Sir,

In reply to J.R. Naysmith in your December issue, the Executive of the Picton Branch request Mr Naysmith to get his facts right before trying to fill the "Crossfire" with all his troubles.

Mr Naysmith seems to forget that many Picton Branch members loaned money to the Marlborough R.S.A. as debentures when their rooms were being built at Blenheim, and he is well aware that the M.R.S.A. loaned money to the Picton Branch for their renovations.

Now the Picton Branch have plans to enlarge their lounge and include an Indoor Bowling room underneath, which means we are in need of a sum of money that would have to be at second mortgage. The M.R.S.A. Executive in their wisdom have agreed to release the title on our Club, (it is a freehold title of the Picton Branch) which they were holding as security for their loan, so we can secure our new loan on first mortgage.

In Mr Naysmith's reference to the Breweries, we can say that they have more faith in us than he has, as they are willing to guarantee our loan if necessary. Mr Naysmith's confidence in the Picton Branch getting a Charter was very slight as he often said that we would never get one.

With regard to the Picton Branch applying for Association Status he has only to study the last page of the last issue of the "Review". In ten years time we could practically be a thing of the past.

While we are a Branch of the M.R.S.A. we are happy to be so and only on the wish of our members will any move be made to alter the situation.

If a NON - R.S.A. member, his wife and his son all became members of the Picton Branch Club Inc. they must all have been nominated, seconded individually, passed in secret ballot then await their turn.

Regarding the Executive of the M.R.S.A. breaking rule 4 (j) as referred to. The money was a loan not an investment.

Secretary - P Mattingley

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE

***Looking for
Timber & Joinery
Under One Roof?***

***see
D Murray Wemyss Ltd
in Freswick St.***

For

- ▶ Showers, Room Divisions
- ▶ Windows, Doors
- ▶ Kitchen Joinery
- ▶ Wardrobes
- ▶ Alplas Aluminium
- ▶ Formica Tops
- ▶ Wood Moulding
- ▶ Timber for Fences
- Full Range in Stock
- Home Building

or Handyman

Open Saturday Mornings

GARDS PRINT

SEE US FIRST!

6 OPAWA STREET, TELEPHONE 83747

FOR

Repor
Sales
Busin
Price
Circu
Leaff
News

What's On This Mon

AS ALTERATIONS ARE BEING DONE TO THE CLUB THERE IS VERY LITTLE ON AT THE MOMENT.

REMEMBER THE BIG RUGBY EVENING ON SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY AT 8 P.M. BOHALLY SCHOOL.
ADDRESS WILL BE GIVEN BY MR RUSS THOMAS MANAGER OF THE 1978 ALL BLACK TEAM.

ALSO FILMS BY COURTESY OF CALTEX OIL (N.Z.) LTD

A COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN AND PROCEEDS GO TO MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS RUGBY EQUIPMENT FUND.

REMEMBER THIS AN R.S.A. PROJECT.

ON 18TH MARCH THE R.S.A. GOLF SECTION GO TO MURCHISON.

Marlborough Agents



Goodyear Tyres

FOR ALL

TYRE

SERVICES

Marlborough

5 FRESWICK STREET

TELEPHONE

AFTER HOURS

FOR YOUR PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

Reports	Articles & Memorandums	Letterheads
Sales Letters	Booklets	Catalogs
Business Cards	Invoices	Manuals
Price Lists	Re-prints from magazines	Envelopes
Circulars	Press Releases	Any Small Publications
Leaflets	Contracts	Cardboard Printing
Newsletters	Labels	

Month In Your Club

TROTTING NEWS



Horses to follow this month

BY "ARAPAHO"

Single Lord	This horse has been brilliant this year look for him around 'Dominion' time.
Miss Coquette	Won brilliantly at Nelson. Looks as though she will develop into a top filly.
Dane Brommac	This filly will win The Oaks later on in the year.
Tallahasse	Looks like she has found form, should carry on with placings on present form.

gh Tyre Co.

STREET, BLENHEIM

PHONE 6760

K. NEWMAN, 5551

AT ALL

TIMES THINK

GOODYEAR TYRES

Marlborough Agents



Goodyear Tyres

Were there ever two more memorable ships than the WAIRAU and ECHO? Certainly they have few peers in regard to historical background. The ECHO, owned by Eckford since 1920 is an auxilliary schooner of 125 tons built by W. Brown & Sons at Kaipara in 1905, and after a short period as a unit of Napier fleet of Richardson's became the umbilical cord between Wellington and Blenheim, severed only when U.S. forces took her over for service in the Pacific Islands in 1943. She became the main subject in the U.S. film "The Whackiest Ship in the Army."

After the war, she resumed the Blenheim service until the trade was forced to close down and is now as a dismantled hulk being restored by the Marlborough Historical Society. May I wish them every success.

During her career, the ECHO suffered no fewer than 34 accidents, many of which were of a serious nature, but always the luck of this comfortable little scow held.

They included two fires, nine strandings, six collisions, three broken shafts and six serious engine failures.

By far the most loved Eckford vessel, the WAIRAU, was built at Totara North by T.M. Lane in 1900 as a topsail schooner of 104 tons and named RONGA. Under Captain Otto E. Peterson she proved a very fast and handy trader, but somewhat too cranky and capsized in Pelorus Sound in 1901, and again in the same place in 1902, whereupon her topsails were removed but in 1906 she was found bottom-up off Cape Campbell. She had drowned all her company including Captain Peterson. Converted in 1910 to a steamer did not change her luck for she collided with the S.S. HIMITANGI in the Manawatu River and sank in 1911.

Refloated, she joined the Eckford fleet and proved a very comfortable and efficient ship. In the later part of the last war she was converted to a motor vessel and in the years 1945-46 the writer served as an A.B. I got to know this busy little vessel very well.

I well remember one trip down the Opawa when we struck a sunken log, tearing the outside cooling system from the hull.

This resulted in the engine overheating as we crossed the bar and very near ended the WAIRAU's saga but luck smiled on us and we entered the choppy waters of the straits with a still motor, to make things worse the pumps all worked off the main engine and the torn pipe let water in.

The trip of countless hours consisted of twenty minutes of hand pumping and ten of the motor running until we got her safely on the slip at Evans Bay.

I recalled with every weary stroke of the cursed pump the pathetic axe marks in the after-hold where some luckless seaman had tried to free himself from the upturned hull back in 1906.

I well remember the strang experience of steaming in the middle of the night up the Opawa with a searchlight mounted on the bow. Willows met in the middle of the stream and as we bumped our way through, ducks would fly into the rigging and crash to the deck dead. This little coaster often had an exotic lunch menu. A popular vessel, having the rare distinction of having been under sail, steam and motor, her rotted hull now graces the mudflat at Motueka.

The deck scow KOHI which began life as the CEAD MILE FAILTE in the yards of G.T. Nichol in 1911 joined the Blenheim trade for a short while in 1945-47 but she did not make the impact of the ECHO and WAIRAU, ships which will always be remembered along the banks of the Opawa and the waterfront at Wellington.

BADEN N. NORRIS

Our Fair Ladies

The Christmas Party for World War I Veterans was a huge success and 50 members and friends enjoyed themselves thoroughly. A sumptuous afternoon tea, a few jokes and an enjoyable programme put on by the Maori Welfare Group plus a sing song with Kath Smith at the piano brought another super function to a close. Mrs Jo Allan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Les Watson thanked the Women's Section for the way they have looked after the War Veterans during the year and wished everyone the Compliments of the Season. The afternoon concluded with the singing of Christmas Carols.

With an attendance of 160 members including Renwick and Picton Sections the Blenheim Section's Christmas Party Dinner went off with a bang, a fabulous dinner with all the trimmings and a lot of laughter and bright entertainment. Some of our members were even disco dancing. The official entertainment of the evening was given by the Country and Western Group and was throroughly enjoyed. Christmas Carols were also enjoyed. Mrs Jo Allan, President of the Women's section wished everyone the compliments of the season.

Fifteen Women's Section Life Members for the first time, held a dinner and with a lot of back chat and laughter another pleasant evening passed away.

MOIRA WILSON

New homes with TRANSPANITION 7-DAY



CONTACT: SOUTH ISLAND HOME IMPROVEMENTS - PHONE 89770 HOME 87659 BUSINESS



Jet bombers screamed overhead, tanks rumbled by in front, and the Queen kept a stern eye on the proceedings. But Britain's Minister of Defence (Mr Fred Mulley) decided there was time for a quick nap—and will never live it down. This

photograph by Ron Bell, of the British Press Association, won him an award in the world press photograph competition. No-one asked Mr Mulley what he thought of it.

Lets Hope Our President Ken Doesn't Do This

A travelling saleswoman has to sleep with the farmer's big gangling son. When they are in bed she says "Do you mind? I would rather be on the other side, you roll over me and I'll roll under you, and we'll change places."

Instead he gets up and runs around to the other side of the bed. She repeats the same request a few minutes later, and he runs back around the bed.

"Say" she remarks, "I don't believe you know what I want at all."

"Sure I do," he replies, "You want the whole damn bed."

DO YOU NEED...

- CHINA WARE
- KITCHEN WARE
- TILT-A-DOORS
- GLASS SUPPLIES
- BUILDERS SUPPLIES
- PAINT & WALLPAPER
- PLUMBING SUPPLIES
- ALUMINIUM DOORS & WINDOWS
- HARDWARE ITEMS
- POWER TOOLS



CONTACT:



HWB^{LD}

MARKET ST. & GROVE RD, BLENHEIM, PHONE 6329
HIGH ST. PICTON, PHONE 614

SURVIVOR OF JAP MASSACRE OF WOMEN VISITS CHRISTCHURCH

The only survivor of a machine-gun massacre of women on Banka Island during the Second World War was the guest of honour at an evening held in Christchurch. She is Miss Bulwinkel, at present Matron of the Fairfield Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Victoria, who was one of the army nurses working at the 13th Australian General Hospital in Malaya when it was evacuated in February 1942. The staff was sent to Singapore and ordered to leave there on February 11 & 12.

With more than 60 other Australian nurses, Miss Bulwinkel was put aboard a small coastal ship, the Vyner Brook, with several hundred civilian women and children and some elderly men. The ship was bombed on February 14 in the Banka Straits. It sank, after three direct hits, about 2.15 pm and the passengers and crew became scattered.

"Eventually, most of us made our way to Banka Island, which was about 10 miles away. Some used rafts and the rest of us had to rely on lifebelts," she said.

"Some swam for about three days. A group that got ashore in daylight lit a fire on the beach, so that everybody still in the sea had a point to swim to." Of the Australian nurses, two were drowned when the ship sank and 12 were lost on a raft. Fortunately, bombing in the area had frightened away sharks. The group on the beach swelled to more than 130 some hours later, when English servicemen came ashore from another ship that had been bombed.

"The Chief Officer of the Vyner Brook, a New Zealander, gave us 24 hours to think about what we were going to do. By that time, the Japanese had taken over the island and, because there was no real choice, we decided unanimously to give ourselves up as prisoners," said Miss Bulwinkel.

Some of the party went ahead to surrender and directed a Japanese patrol to the others. The patrol herded the men away from the beach, then drove 21 nurses and the remaining civilian women into the sea and machine-gunned them from behind.

"When I finally came round in the sea, I found that, although I had been hit, I was miraculously, still alive. There was no sign of the Japanese patrol and no-one else in sight. I do not know how long I was in the water, but I finally realised I would have to do something. I took myself up into the jungle where I knew it would be warm. I had no idea of the time."

Miss Bulwinkel later joined forces with an English serviceman, whom she found on the beach. He was wounded and had been bayoneted. She took care of him until he could walk, but they realised they would have to surrender to the Japanese.

BLENHEIM JOINERY COMPANY

JOINERY

KITCHEN FITTINGS & FORMICA BENCH TOPS

▪ WOODEN WINDOWS

▪ WOOD TURNING

▪ DOORS

▪ STAIRS

Phone 4455 or 3232 private G.Gardiner (prop.)

PICTON TRANSPORT SERVICE LTD

L.M.V.D.

50 WELLINGTON STREET, PICTON

Mobil

FOR MOBIL SERVICE

PETROL, OIL AND TYRES

LUBRICATION

BREAKDOWN SERVICE

CAR STORAGE

MECHANICAL REPAIRS

TELEPHONE 160 PICTON, 6222 BLENHEIM

P.O. BOX 144 PICTON

"We could get no help from the men in the nearby village because they were scared of the Japanese. However, a couple of women secretly gave me rice, dried fish and pineapple on my three trips to the village."

After she had surrendered she found herself in a prison camp in Muntok, on Banka Island, with 31 out of the 65 other Australian nurses. The survivors had all reached land "in dribs and drabs", arriving after those who had been massacred on the beach.

Eight more nurses were to die during the next 3½ years of life in several prison camps, both on Banka Island and in Sumatra. Life was hard in the camps and the inmates grew weaker and more unhealthy as time went by. The nurses tried to help the sick but were refused any medical assistance or facilities.

"We had to do all the chores involved in the running of the camp, as well as going out on working parties. You were expected to cut down green rubber trees for firewood with very poor axes - every time you raised one, the head fell off" said Miss Bulwinkel.

The women had to swallow their pride and learn to accept the indignities forced on them by the Japanese. Probably the worst punishments were having their faces slapped or being made to stand in the hot sun.

"The Japanese learnt, however, that individuals could take a lot of punishment, so they started punishing the whole camp by cutting down rations if a person stepped out of line."

The children in the camp ranged in age from babies to 13 year olds. At that age, boys were transferred to the men's camp. Prisoners who were teachers tried to educate the children, but they had no equipment and the enthusiasm ebbed as the prisoners became more under-nourished.

Two or three babies were born after their mothers were taken prisoners. "It was simply amazing what beautiful babies they were for the first 12 months, solely on a diet of water, rice, mashed bananas and chillies. But, after the first year, it was obvious they were not getting the right nourishment for healthy growth," said Miss Bulwinkel. "Their faces became old looking and their bodies stunted."

Rescued from Sumatra in September, 1945, she was later awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross medal and the Florence Nightingale Medal for her war service.

Miss Bulwinkel is the only woman member of the trustee board of the National War Memorial in Canberra and is also a lieutenant-colonel with the Citizen Military Forces, in the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps. Outside her job as Matron of the 350 bed Fairfield Hospital, she is honorary nursing adviser and deputy-principal commandant of the Australian Red Cross.



TODAY'S GREAT DRINK

PATRIOTIC FUND

The following item was published in the Womens Weekly a few years ago and was contributed by Cherry Raymond ...

I wonder whether anyone who subscribed to the Patriotic Fund during World War II foresaw the money being hoarded carefully to last until the year 2000 - or even, as has recently been suggested as a better target to aim at, the year 2010.

When I first heard about this aim - through someone who had applied unseccessfully for assistance from the fund - it seemed ridiculously cautious and conservative. But the fund is meant to be used for ex-servicemen and their dependants, of whom there could be many thousands at the end of the century - unless there is a nuclear war in the meantime.

The question is whether it might not be better polich to be more generous to the ex-servicemen alive and needing help now than to conserve funds in a miserly way for the hypothetical needs of the survivors in 30 years time.

I would have thought that in the minds of most people who subscribed to the Patriotic Fund immediate needs would have taken precedence - a man needing rehabilitation, a widow and a family of small fatherless children. I don't think many would have thought of the distribution of their money being watered down to last past the year 2000. There could be plenty of octogenarian and nonagenarian exservicemen alive then, of course, life expectation is expanding constantly. But then, so is the pattern of social welfare, and by the end of the century, if not earlier, the kind of help provided by organisations like the Patriotic Fund Board and the many voluntary organisations could be completely outmoded. Another point to be considered is the future value of the money in the fund. The Patriotic Fund Board is said to be phasing itself out of existence by gradually spending the capital fund, as well as using the interest accruing from it.

As the capital sum diminishes so will the interest it earns. When you know how quickly money becomes less and less valuable it doesn't take much working out to see that what money remains in the year 2000 will be worth peanuts compared with its value today. At the end of last year the total of fund available for the assistance of exservicemen was getting on for seven million dollars over five million in the Canteen and Patriotic Funds and the rest in the hands of the Commercial Travellers' Association for War Blinded, Heritage and the NZRSA.

When so much money is available it can sometimes seem very cruel when individual applications for assistance are refused. It has sometimes been suggested that the fund should be "whacked up" between all surviving ex-servicemen and women.

But the counter to that is that since there are about a quarter of a million people eligible, the sum each would receive would be so small as to mean nothing very much to any of them, whereas doling it out, in however

small amounts, to the people who really need it, is going to be more valuable. The point at issue here, I suppose, is the interpretation of "need". The 14 Provincial Councils of the Patriotic Fund are all autonomous and have no formal contact with each other, while the Patriotic Fund Board in Wellington (appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs) is said only to "guide" the councils. But all are bound by the Canteen and Patriotic Funds Act, which states plainly that anyone who receives money from the fund must be in need.

This could explain an attitude which at first seems rather hard and grudging. I heard of one man who applied for a wheel chair. An amputee he seemed to be in need. Though he was an exserviceman, his condition was comparatively recently developed and not a result of war injury - not that that made any difference to Patriotic Fund assistance. An observer, feeling the deep well of sympathy any of us must feel for a man having to live his life in a wheel chair, would have thought him an obvious candidate for assistance. But the man had considerable assets, he had several thousand dollars out on loan and earning interest, was planning to freehold property and receiving Government superannuation. He was elderly and his children who were adults and clearly not in any need, were the ones who were going to benefit from any assistance given the old soldier, which would leave his capital intact.

Continued on Page 32

SPRING CREEK SERVICE STATION (1975) LTD

Main Rd. Spring Creek



FOR ALL MECHANICAL REPAIRS PETROL AND
DIESEL ENGINES



■ TYRE & TUBE REPAIRS ■ BATTERY SERVICE



■ GAS & ARC WELDING ■ GENERAL ENGINEERING

■ GREASING & OIL CHARGING ■ STEAM CLEANING ■ PETROL

■ CIGARETTES ■ ACCESSORIES

FOR PROMPT EFFICIENT AND FRIENDLY SERVICE SEE US

Tel 899 Sck

Box 63

Tom Reeves & Bert Croft (Props)

D. J. JOHNSTON

Telephone
83-311

PICTURE FRAMER
15 ALANA PLACE, BLENHEIM.

Telephone
83-311

- ★ *All work done by a Fully Qualified Tradesman.*
- ★ *Fast efficient service.*
- ★ *Realistic Prices that are hard to surpass.*
- ★ *Full picture framing service provided.*
- ★ *Large range of mouldings to choose from.*
- ★ *Mountboard.*
- ★ *Prints framed to order.*

15% off to all R. S. A. Members

BLENHEIM ELECTRIC HOUSE LTD.

(W. R. BRUNTON)

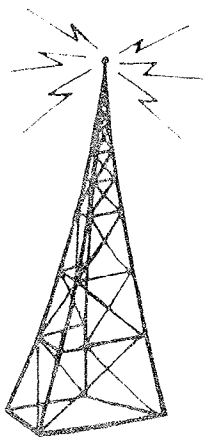
FOR ALL REPAIRS

RADIO & T.V.

SEE US

at 6 OPAWA STREET

Telephone 3564
Private 6812



Equally clearly, the large sum of money involved in the purchase of a wheelchair could be better used to help exservicemen in genuine need. In another case I heard of, a home serviceman partially paralysed through an accident on the football field, and who has lived in hospital for 26 years, was refused a grant to replace the old wooden chair he had been using for more than 20 years. He had worked for a few years but for some time had lived on the invalidity pension, which was \$18 a month above his board and lodging at the hospital. A folding chair would have been an enormous help because it could have been transported to his car so that he need not remain sitting in the car when he went out. The car a fairly old one, wasnt easy to keep roadworthy on his pension and the owner told me that an occasional 50c flutter on the horses had provided money from time to time for essential maintenance and repairs.

Under these circumstances you might think that help would be forthcoming from the Patriotic Fund - but then under the terms of the Act it might be difficult to see somebody with an invalidity pension, permanent hospital board and a car, being "in need" compared with the many disabled who have no car and must fend for themselves as best they can in rented rooms.

So what first looks like incredible heartlessness can be justified according to the terms of the Act and under the present polich of the Board. A council officer said "Of course we would like to help any exserviceman who appeals to us, everybody would rather be a good fellow than not, but it is impossible to meet all demands made on the fund."

Yet there are still hundreds of people who could qualify for help and dont apply. Under present policy nobody gets a lot of money but a lot of people get a little - a help out at Christmas time, help with funeral expenses or with the cost of school clothing.

The question is, is this the best policy to spread the money so thinly? I would have thought not "And surely" I said, "if more money is needed later on, more could be raised by subscriptions, as the fund was raised in the first place."

But I am apparently not such a good judge of human nature, "Raise money for a fund for exservicemen? Never ..." I was told ... "not in peace time."

HEARD AT THE POOL TABLE:-

Maurie: "I sure enjoy my game of pool - I hope they've got a table up top when I go."

Joe: "When you get there Maurie, will you put my name up on the board?"

SMILES

Someone will always smile when things go wrong. The repair man for instance.

MORE REMINISCENCES:

This little incident will long be remembered by those taking part in it. It was in the final push in 1918 when the Hun was on the run and we were under the command of a most unpopular and windy Tommy Colonel. Just before dark after a hard day's march we arrived at an abandoned German Headquarters, made with the usual Hun thoroughness, deep dugouts with sleeping galleries running off the main corridor. Everybody rushed in to secure a good possie, but the old man ordered everybody out until an Engineer Officer could be found to examine the whole place and pronounce it safe. Not far away was an abandoned railway siding with the usual assortment of equipment laying about, including some boxes of grenades, so the boys set up some empty boxes and petrol tins and had a little bomb throwing competition just to hurry the Engineer Officer along and to put the wind up the old man. They threw a few grenades on top of the dug-out and near the entrance.

By the time we had had a feed and the place was declared O.K. it was pretty dark and we were glad to turn in. I found a very comfortable corner and was soon in the land of nod. I don't know how long I had been asleep when I was rudely shaken and told to get out as quickly as possible, as a clock-work mine had been discovered and was expected to go off at any time. By the time we had got our gear together and got to the main corridor there was considerable confusion, and when word came along that it was the Colonel who had discovered the mine a lot of uncomplimentary remarks were passed and a few choice epitaphs hurled at him in the dark. I had not even reached the surface when word was passed along to return to our places. As I passed one of the galleries there was much laughing and joking among the officers. It turned out that one of them had taken his watch off when he turned in and placed it on an empty petrol tin, which amplified its ticking and it was this that the Colonel had heard, but as soon as it was picked up the noise had stopped. This had been discovered when the watch was replaced on the tin.

About daylight some of the boys on picket rolled a few empty tins down the entrance, this was too much for the Colonel, so he roused the M.O. and got himself evacuated with War Neurosis. He was lucky enough to get a ride in the ambulance and was in Blighty in the evening.

A soldier on a two-week wedding furlough telegraphs to his commanding officer: "It's wonderful here. Request one week's extension of leave."

The reply: "It's wonderful anywhere. Return to camp at once."

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE

A girl complained to the police that a man went up to her room with her, threw her on to the bed, tore her clothes, and then ran off with her purse.

"Did you scream?"

"Of course not. How did I know he was going to rob me?"

Sub-Branch News

PICTON R.S.A.

It is with regret that I record the passing away of 55746 - Ray Heberd, W.W.1, and 43384 James Findlater, corporal 'C' 37 Battalion, W.W.2.

Ray regularly used the club, and in fact, was dancing at socials as recently as 6 months ago. Always a popular man, Ray always gave me the impression of being completely satisfied with his life's work, and in all the time that I knew him, I never heard him complain or grumble about anything.

Jim Findlater retired to Picton from Fairlie about 10 years ago, but realized retirement wasn't his cup of tea, and shortly afterwards took over the Marine Engineers shop now known as "Langdale Marine". Once again he had health problems and sold the business to Whimp Marine. Before he had time to relax and enjoy retirement, he bought into Queen Charlotte launches and was Master of the Miss Picton and later Miss Onahau at the time of his death.

For some years Jim was an executive member of the R.S.A. but ill health forced him to relinquish his services.

On behalf of the executive and members of the Picton R.S.A. we extend our condolences to both families.

PICTON GOSSIP

Ross, the M.C. for the Ex-Malayan Social in December was badly let down by his constant companion! His watch! For no known reason it was 15 minutes fast. Naturally Ross reckoned at quarter past twelve (by his watch) everyone had had a fair go, and stopped the band. By his time at 1230, he started the normal practice of hurrying everyone along, much to the indignation of all of us who had reliable watches anyway. The truth dawned on him next morning when he heard the time pips at 9 a.m.

Normally he would qualify for the Sheriffs corner, but under the circumstances I think for our continued harmony, he should put the money towards a new watch.

It was a disappointment to learn of the resignation of two associate members in Bon Wrightson who's health has restricted his activities, and Kevin Harwood, who has been transferred to Blenheim. Bon and Kevin were both members of the Clubhouse committee and their participation will be missed by us all.

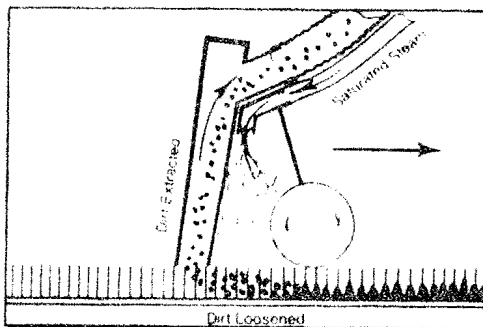
ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

Successful socials in December and January, and it's heartening to hear that Des Yorkes band is becoming more popular with each appearance. Well done Des and Co, I know you put a lot of time and effort into preparing for a social, and it is to be hoped that our patrons show their appreciation by coming to as many socials as possible.

Unfortunately the date for the next social hadn't been set at the time of this article going to print, but it will be well advertised.

NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE

BLENHEIM COMMERCIAL CLEANERS LTD *Steam Clean Carpet Cleaners Steam Clean*



First of all, a fine spray of steam is forced into the carpet.

With a deep rinse* action the steam penetrates the carpet, loosening both clinging surface soil and deep down dirt and holding it in suspension.

The dirt is then immediately extracted by powerful suction.

REDUCES FREQUENCY OF REPEAT CLEANING — because the deep steam process is so thorough there is no sub-surface soil remaining to work its way upward. You can actually see the hidden dirt in suspension as it is removed — including that left behind from previous shampooing.

CUTS DRYING TIME TO A MINIMUM — from the usual eight to ten hours to a much more acceptable one to three hours.

ADDS YEARS OF USE AND GOOD LOOKS — because the grinding wear resulting in telltale traffic patterns is minimized by removal of grit and grime from the base of the fibers. Furniture marks disappear as gentle steaming action fluffs fibers back to their original appearance.

RESTORES DEEPER LUSTER AND COLOR — because simultaneous cleansing and extracting action penetrates to full depth of the fibers — not just the surface ends

Free Quotes

Phone 87075

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE

R.S.A. LADIES PICTON

After a break of two months we are about to resume meetings again on Tuesday evening 13th February at 7.30 p.m. Members will no doubt be either thoroughly refreshed or completely exhausted, depending on their respective types of holiday break.

Since the last issue of "Crossfire" in December, a good number of us went to Blenheim to join with their W.S. members for an excellent Dinner with all the trimmings, followed by entertainment from a group. Our President Betty Topp was a raffle winner. Thanks to Jo Allan and her girls for the behind-the-scenes work involved in organising a successful evening such as we enjoyed.

Also in December, a dozen or so of our members took advantage of the invitation extended to us by the Waikawa Bay Play Centre to have morning tea and share in their Christmas Party. For the past few years these occasions have been held in the R.S.A. Social Rooms with great success, Father Christmas being drawn from the R.S.A. ranks to distribute the presents. Those of us attending appreciated the opportunity to see the delight on the little pre-schoolers faces when Father Christmas arrived, and also when faced with the glorious spread of party food. We joined with the children in singing "Away in a Manger".

Watching these and other healthy youngsters during the holiday season reminds us that 1979 is THE YEAR OF THE CHILD, and of our obligation to the welfare of youth in its various forms.

A good representation of W.S. Members from Picton accompanied their menfolk to the Farewell and Presentation to Keith Jamieson and Edna. (All, I have no doubt, would have signed the Visitor's Book as required.) We join with our menfolk in wishing you a restful retirement. That is Keith, when you have completed all that long list of jobs Edna has lined up for you !!!

Finally, congratulations to our "Crossfire" Editor Paul Brodie on his appointment as Secretary/Manager of R.S.A. I will make a New Year resolution Paul, to at least try and get the Picton Women's Section material to you somewhere near the deadline in future.

JOAN M. TAYLOR



**MAKE A
WHOLESALE
SAVING**

ON YOUR HOME SUPPLIES

**FOR ALL YOUR
WINE & SPIRIT REQUIREMENTS,
CONSULT THE EXPERTS**

OPEN SATURDAYS 9am — 5.30pm

**Main St,
Blenheim**

**Wellington St,
Picton**



**Wrightson
WINES & SPIRITS**

WHEN YOU THINK OF

ASSURANCE

THINK OF ME

• FIRE

• LIFE



• ACCIDENT

• MARINE

• ESTATE PLANNING

ERROL HANCOCK

P.O. Box 662
Blenheim
Bus. 87-016 Res 4996



PRUDENTIAL

The Prudential Assurance Company Limited