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# Editorial

*ANZAC DAY has again come and gone with record attendances on parade and in the Clubhouse afterwards. A record bucket collection — \$202 for welfare!*

*Next on the cards is the annual general meeting and in this issue is a run-down of the candidates offering themselves for election to the executive — 18 in all. Some of the information about them is sketchy — the Kiwi reluctance to blow his own trumpet, we suppose. The A.G.M. is set down for 8pm on June 20, and items for the agenda in the form of Notices of Motion must reach the Secretary by **May 30**, correctly proposed and seconded.*

The clubhouse continues to have a steady influx of visitors from other RSAs and many favourable comments are heard about the comfort of the facilities and the friendliness and hospitality of our members. Keep up the good work — you never know when you may be a stranger in a strange town and make use of the local RSA.

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**THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN CROSSFIRE ARE ENTIRELY THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT OFFICIAL POINTS OF VIEW TO OUR ADVERTISERS**

**COPY FOR ADVERTISEMENTS SHOULD REACH THE RSA OFFICE, BLENHEIM, NO LATER THAN THE 25TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING ISSUE.**

**ADVERTISING RATES MAY BE OBTAINED ON APPLICATION.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 30TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.**

## PUBLICATION

**CROSSFIRE IS PUBLISHED IN THE SECOND WEEK OF EACH MONTH. THE EDITOR IS PAUL BRODIE AND THE SUB-EDITOR ALLAN GARDINER. CROSSFIRE IS PRINTED BY GARDS PRINT LTD, 14 BOMFORD STREET, BLENHEIM.**

# Presidents Page

**Our Clubroom alterations have been completed and have brought many complimentary remarks from visitors as well as most members. Congratulations to the contractors and, of course, Wally Boddington, for a first-class job.**

Thanks also to Mrs P. Heald, the colour consultant, for putting the finishing touches to the job.

Anzac Day was a great success with a good muster on parade. All branches also reported successful parades. Our two young speakers drew much favourable comment. Congratulations to you both, we are all very proud of you. It is believed that this was a first-time in New Zealand that young people have taken an active part in an Anzac Day service.

Lieut-Col. Aldridge's address was also well received.

Our ladies section did their usual marvellous job both at the cemetery and with the lunch at the clubhouse. Thank you all. It is a pity that the service at the cemetery is not better attended. Make an effort to attend next year.

I wonder how many members realise what a great job Norm Jellyman does at the cemetery. He always has it neat and tidy on Anzac Day with the help of, at the most, two other members. You would never believe how busy some of our members are when Norm asks for a little assistance.

My thanks to the bar staff on what must be their busiest day of the year. Not many know that for many years our bar staff have donated their penalty payment on Anzac Day to the club and have worked for just their ordinary pay on this day. This is a magnificent gesture in anyone's language.

Thanks are also due to the Poppy Day collectors, again a record year. As this collection is the main source of our hospital fund, we are lucky these people give of their time so freely.

During the week Paul Brodie, Bert Hurlow and myself visited our oldest member, Richard Allan, on the occasion of his 99th birthday. There has been the odd discussion in the club on who is our oldest member well here is your answer.

So far we have only one written suggestion or alternate plan for our other proposed alteration. Surely some members have some thoughts on the matter. Let's have them before the annual meeting, which is to be held on June 20.

On April 28 I dined as the guest of the Renwick Ladies' Section at the City Hotel and it was a very enjoyable evening. Also dining at the City that night were the ex-Malayan boys who also seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Paul and I attended the Awatere sub-branch annual general meeting at Seddon. Selwyn Watson's commitments at the club precluded him from carrying on as branch delegate. Selwyn has done 12 years of faithful service on the executive and I am very sorry to see him go. Awatere are lucky to have got another good man in A. D. (Doug) Dick to replace him.

Be sure to keep June 20 free.

**KEN YEALANDS.**

---

## On the contrary

A television star told his regular barber he wanted a particularly good haircut one morning "I'm flying to England tomorrow and I'm going to be introduced to the Queen!" The barber was unimpressed. "In the first place," he commented, "English weather is terrible at this time of the year. In the second place, flying there is no bargain with these winter storms raging. In the third place, you won't like the food over there. And in the fourth place, you won't really meet the Queen. There will be about five hundred people at the same time and she won't even know you're there!"

The television star made the trip, nevertheless, and in due course was back in the same barber's chair. "In the first place," he reported, "the weather in England was superb. In the second place, the plane rides both to and fro were so smooth I never felt a tremor. In the third place, I loved the food so much I gained fifteen pounds. And in the fourth place, there were only two other visitors at Buckingham Palace when I met the Queen. And do you know what she asked me? 'Who on earth gave you that horrible haircut?'"

## THE BETTER THINGS

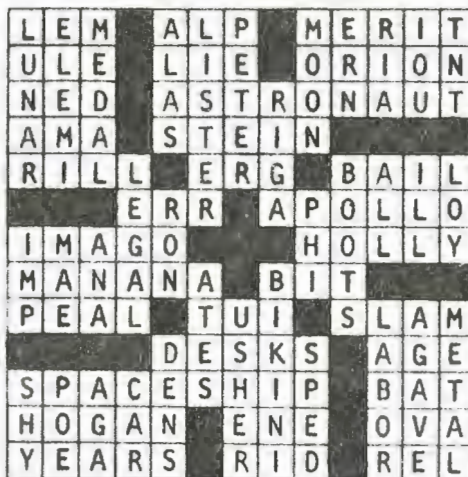
I pray not for the tinselled things  
 Begat of Mammons mould,  
 I much prefer the bird that sings  
 As baby wings unfold,  
 The dew upon the window pane  
 A lullaby of rills  
 The notes of thrushes through the rain  
 Across the misty hills,  
 With good damp earth beneath the feet  
 The songs of skylarks high  
 The shady nooks where fern fronds meet  
 Beneath a broad blue sky.  
 The roses, mignonette and musk  
 With moths on silver wings  
 And perfumes pregnant in the dusk  
 With long forgotten things.

**J. J. BULL**  
 (Renwick, Retd)

### Heady stuff

The dairyman crossed a cow with  
 a mule. We don't know what he got.  
 but it gives milk with a kick to it.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE 5



### Sizeable problem

The big trouble with the bucket  
 seats on today's sporty cars is that  
 everyone doesn't have the same size  
 bucket.



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# EX-MALAYAN SERVICES ASSN

## BRANCH NEWS, MAY 1979

Well our first annual meeting has been held, with 18 keen members present and the team for the ensuing 12 months is:-

**President:** Robert Fidler.

**Vice-Presidents:** Dave Porteous (senior) and Mike Morrison (junior).

**Secretary:** Peter Callahan.

**Treasurer:** Derrick Marsh.

**Committee:** Lindsay Learmonth, Bill Pawson, Bill Ross, John Frisken, Ewen Robinson, Dave Johnstone, Ricky Vincent, Bert Anscombe, Murray Downs, Murray Brown, Alick Tapp, John Bulland and Danny Linton.

## BRANCH DINNER

Due to "Murphy's Law" applying (if anything can possibly go wrong it will) our branch dinner was not the outstanding success that it could have been. However, to John and Amy, Vic and Jane, who were attending their first function with us, we did enjoy your company and trust that you enjoyed ours and we look forward to getting together again at our future functions.

## WARNING ORDER

Arrangements are being made to hold another social at the Picton RSA on Saturday, June 30, and our door-to-door minibus pickup and delivery service will once again be pressed into action. Tickets will be available from June 1 from Bob Fidler, Peter Callahan, Derrick Marsh, Mike Morrison and Dave Porteous. So jack up the baby-sitter now and have an enjoyable night out with nice people.

It is also proposed to hold a family hangi and barn dance, possibly in early September when the weather is starting to warm up. Negotiations are currently under way to secure a suitable woolshed for the event. The intended programme is to assemble at approximately 1600 hours and open the hangi around 1730 hours. Music supplied by the "Ulu Bashas" Orchestra is being jacked up by

Danny Linton, which brings me to the next point, which is, if anyone has any ideas on how we may improve on a function of this type please don't keep your ideas to yourself. Help us to make our activities more enjoyable for everyone.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our ranks and look forward to seeing them take part in our various activities: Ewen Robinson, Dave Johnstone, Tony Oberdries, Bert Anscombe, George Rangitiki and Murray Downs.

## REMINDERS

National Re-union, Wanganui, Labour weekend. If you are going to attend and wish to travel with the group, don't forget to let the Secretary know.

Next general meeting, **Wednesday, May 23**, Picton RSA meeting room, 1930 hours. Transport leaves Marlborough RSA at 1850 hours.

## Travelling companion

Overheard on a bus: "I always thought my wife was true to me, until we moved from Sydney to Melbourne and I discovered we still had the same milk man!"

## Euphemism

The scientist was showing a friend through his laboratory, where he specialised in the cross-breeding of experimental birds. "This," said the scientist, "is a cross between a pheasant and an eagle. We call it a Pheagle. This is a cross between a pheasant and a robin. We call him a Phobbin. And this is a cross between a pheasant and a duck. We call him JOI!"

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## Letters to the Editor

### WAR SERVICE PENSION YOU'VE HAD IT, MATE!

All too often I have had the unpleasant task of giving that answer to members inquiring about the war service pension.

So, after a fair trial period of nearly 10 years, perhaps it is time to ask two questions:

*Is the war service pension meeting present day needs?*

*How does it compare with National Superannuation?*

There were many of us who felt that too much was given away in settling for the War Service Pension instead of pressing for extension of the War Veterans' Allowance to WW2 ex-servicemen. In comparison with the War Veterans' Allowance the War Service Pension falls short in many ways, but that is water under the bridge.

In view of the successive liberalisation of National super, now available to everyone at age 60, without means test, surely it is time to examine the restrictive provisions of the War Service Pension.

This pension was designed to recognise war service. The amount is marginally better than National super, if you meet the prescribed conditions. These are not widely understood, particularly the age restriction. Nowadays, when National super is paid to a 60-year-old millionaire why should an ex-serviceman have to submit to a means test and also an age disqualification? It is the age bar that proves the only stumbling block in very many cases. If you don't apply before age 65, you've had it, mate.

We are lulled into forgetfulness with payment of National super from age 60, while still working, and too

amny do not examine their eligibility for War Service Pension before reaching age 65, and possible retirement.

This age barrier was set 10 years ago when the starting age of Universal Superannuation was also 65.

Now that the age for National super has been liberalised, surely the time has come to ask for a reconsideration of the age restriction for the War Service Pension.

Which side of the age barrier are you on?

JIM NAYSMITH

(EDITOR'S NOTE: An N.Z.R.S.A. deputation headed by the N.Z.R.S.A. president, Mr N. D. Leuchars, presented a nine-page submission to the Minister of War Pensions on February 2 on the above matters).

### DAFFYNITIONS

**BULLET:** A small cylindrical pointed object which men push towards each other when millionaires disagree over a matter of small change; has two ends and a middle part, and is well-known for its trajectory; is somewhat unlike a bee's sting, and has much the same effect. Persons who are struck by these objects and find it out the same day generally express themselves as being extremely annoyed.

**BOMB:** A projectile of various shapes, all indescribable, drops out of the sky from nowhere in particular and after a few moments meditation suddenly spreads itself in 47 different directions, at the same time emitting a sound that can be heard quite easily on a calm day.

**CHLORIDE OF LIME:** A powder which emits a very deadly, asphyxiating gas often found strewn around places most frequented by our troops and is supposed to be placed there by a secret enemy popularly known as "The Sanitary Man."



## LAST POST

39005 S. H. GREER

"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.*

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### NEW MEMBERS

U79414 K. MORSE  
22826633 J. HOGG  
NZN3407 B. A. R. GRAHAM

**IN TOWN FOR THE DAY?  
TRY LUNCH AT THE RSA ——— 12 NOON TO 1.30PM**

## WHO'S WHO IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION?

**KEN YEALANDS:** Present President — unopposed this year.

**RON HEMMING:** Present vice-president — unopposed.

**WALLY BODDINGTON:** Only other nomination for vice-president — makes the second required on the committee so no election required.

**ALEX FRY:** Volunteer for treasurer to replace Bryn James — no other nomination received.

### EXECUTIVE

**VERN ANDERSON:** Standing member of executive. Served in Army WW2 in Italy and has been a member of Nelson and Marlborough RSAs since 1946 (including vice-president Nelson 1960-63 and President Marlborough 1972-74). Awarded Gold Star and Merit Badge. Self-employed—Anderson and Collett. Chairman Charter Committee and noted as very profit-conscious!

**BERT ANSCOMBE:** Insurance company rep., aged 43. Served in RNZ Navy 1952-65, NZ Police 1965-67 and 1st Btn RNZIR 1967-69. Throws a mean dart and is prominent in ex-Navalmen's Assn.

**ERIC BISHELL:** Another insurance company rep. Served with NMMR then with 2nd NZEF in Middle East and Italy in Div. Cav. 1942-45. Rotary for 16 years (ex-president).

**G. P. ("IKE") CAMERON:** Married, aged 56, painter. Left NZ with 11th Reinforcements and served in Middle East and Italy. Joined MRSA in 1946 and has served on various committees almost continuously since, and was president 1967-69. Awarded Gold Star and Merit Badge. Has great fund of stories and knows where to find the paddle. Serving on present executive.

**JOHN CAMERON:** Married, age 56, driver for "The Press." Served in Army during war, including two years in Italy. Known to speak his mind and a good RSA supporter.

**ALBY EARNSHAW:** Married, age 56, driver for MWD at Woodbourne, and is also well-known driver at the RSA Bowling Club. Served in Army 1940-46 and is on the clubhouse committee. At present attempting to grow a military moustache, but so far, 12 months' growth is barely visible. Strong rugby supporter.

**BOB FIDLER:** Manager POSB. One of the "young brigade," aged 42. Served in Malaya 1959-61 and is president of ex-Malayan Assn. Represented Marlborough in junior cricket 1955-56 and played rugby for Opawa. Recently transferred back to Blenheim.

**BOB FORBES:** Aged 60, self-employed builder and recently carried out roof alterations. Served in Army for six years, including four years in Middle East and Italy. Makes a point of welcoming visitors to the club and has been known to fire a few bullets.

**ALLAN GARDINER:** Self-employed, music and printing. Current member of executive. Served five and a-half years Army, including four years in Middle East and Italy. Keen bowler and on bowling club executive also. Complains continuously about the price of gin.

**GORDON GARDINER:** Aged 58, self-employed joiner. Served in Army in Pacific, Middle East and Italy. Executive for 12 years and was awarded life membership. Keen pool player and is the one who fixes things when they get smashed (the furniture, that is).

**BOB GORDON:** Aged 58, labourer, Wairau Hospital. Served 18 months Middle East (Army), two years with K-Force and five years Regular Force (Burnham). Served on Indoor bowls committee (four years) and clubhouse (five years). Voice can be heard regularly over air (after giving a couple of spits to see if the mike works) calling over the prizes for the raffles.

**JOE GRIFFITHS:** Married, aged 58. Current member of executive. Served in Army four and a half years (Middle East and Italy). First chairman clubhouse committee and a regular RSA supporter. Easily heard in the far corners of the club and has left his mark on the piano as a tap dancer. Plays around at pool.

**ERROL HANCOCK:** Married, aged 39. Another insurance company rep. Served in the Air Force, including Singapore 1975-77, then with Safe Air until taking up insurance. Keen private pilot and seen regularly in the club.

**LEN HOOK:** Married, aged 54. Served with RNZAF 1943-45, mainly with No. 5 Squadron (flying boats). Post Office supervisor and has been with PO for 37 years.

**BOB MILLER:** Married, aged 59. Served in RNZAF and Army. Agriculture Dept field officer. Has served on the social committee of the Mapua RSA. Active member of darts club and known to have sown a few seeds around the clubhouse.

**IAN MOORE:** Married, aged 59, retired. Came from Patea and was a plumber. RNZAF six years as a welder, was also commercial fisherman at Akaroa, Lyttelton and Bluff. Ill-health forced early retirement. Keen bowler (Indoor and outdoor). Good supporter of RSA, always willing to lend helping hand. Capable golf, darts and pool player.

**SID ROBINSON:** Married, aged 56, carpenter-joiner MOW Woodbourne. Served in Army and Air Force (5 Sqdn) during WW2. Served on social committee Motueka and on their executive. Has served as chairman clubhouse committee up to present time Ex-President combined indoor bowls and member men's indoor bowling section. Instrumental in conducting special efforts and housie and always full of new ideas.

**REX THORSTENSEN:** Storekeeper, Ministry of Works. Served in J-Force, K-Force and Regular Army. Was on executive of Porirua RSA 1972-73 and on social committee of Turangi-Tokaanu branch 1973-74. Organiser of the "Doomsday Book" (list of members and their units, for benefit of visitors). A noted stayer.

**DUD:** An animal of the mole species which burrows into the earth for a short distance and then dies, or rather subsides into a comatose state, for a sharp blow on the nose, his most sensitive feature will generally bring it to life and activity. Can be tamed and kept in captivity, but owing to its uncertain temper is not recommended as a domestic pet.

## **N.Z. HOME GUARD TRAINING POLICY 1940**

*Modern conditions of war and especially those under which the Home Guard would have to operate, do not require ceremonial precision; nor can minute-to-minute orders be given in the field to any unit larger than a section. The essential, then, is not parade ground training, but field training. Enough drill for practical purposes can be taught in three or four hours. Drill, as the basis of discipline and esprit de corps, is replaced by the keen-ness that exists in a voluntary organisation and by keeping the men fully informed.*

### **Facts of life**

Then there was the Indian mother who was trying to explain the facts of life to her daughter. "Not true, baby brought by stork Indian girl get papoose with beau and error."

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# **THIS MONTHS PERSONALITY**

## **CONNIE ENRIGHT**



CONSTANCE WINIFRED ENRIGHT was born in Palmerston North, and because she is a lady we cannot reveal when that was.

Her father was an engineer in the NZR and was frequently transferred around the North Island. Ill-health forced him to leave the Railways and he became an engineer on the staff of the Manawatu County Council in Feilding.

Connie was one of a family of eight children, three boys and five girls, and she was educated by the Sisters of St Josephs of the Mother House, Wanganui. In 1926 her father transferred to the Marlborough County Council and she commenced work at the Wairau Hospital in January, 1927.

After several years in various departments she went to nursing in 1939 and volunteered to go overseas with the VAD. She served first in the Pacific at No. 4 General Hospital until returning to Wellington on furlough where she nursed for a while before again sailing overseas for service in the Middle East.

She went on a hospital ship on which her old matron of Wairau Hospital, Miss Lewis, was in charge. According to Connie everyone knew she really was in charge too, but apparently everyone enjoyed working for her as she was so straight and honest. To her, Connie says, every soldier was important and she hammered this home to all her nursing staff.

Connie later landed in Italy and was posted to 3 Convalescent Hospital. Shortly after arriving there she was called along to be met by her brother Jack, who was at 3GH, conducting some court-martials. From here she was transferred to Cascerta No. 2 General Hospital.

Here she found a great team to work with and apparently had a local lad (name not mentioned) as a patient and boyfriend who took her out when on leave.

She was lucky enough to see a fair bit of Italy and she remarks that there were many times when things were obviously tough, but they hadn't joined up for a joyride. She is obviously proud that she was able to do her bit along with all the men serving there.

When the hospital in Italy closed she was posted back to Egypt and in due course was repatriated back to New Zealand.

She again took up nursing at Wairau Hospital and in 1956 became a radiographer and worked as such until she retired in 1971 after 45 years with the Wairau Hospital Board.

She now helps fill in her day preparing the morning and afternoon teas at the Government Computer Centre.

She has had four overseas trips and has always enjoyed excellent health.

She joined the Marlborough RSA in 1946 and still takes an active part in organising the various functions of the lady members.

# HISTORY of HERITAGE (Marl) INC.

by Harry Glen

The Heritage movement in N.Z. was founded in 1943 by Dr O. C. Mazengarb, a distinguished lawyer and King's Counsel in Wellington, who could remember the treatment meted out to returned servicemen after WW1 in the Government's land settlement plans, and in its pensions system. The recession of 1921-22 cut short the aspirations of many genuine triers, and the depression of the early 1930s sorely tested even the lucky and stout-hearted.

Dr Mazengarb knew of the Legacy movement in Australia and had examined it himself. Legacy gives assistance to the widows and children of overseas servicemen, and is much in the public eye in fund-raising to support its many activities. He decided upon a different pattern for Heritage. He had little faith in membership campaigns or organised fund-raising. "The time spent on these," he said, "is better put into the work itself." His first two public meetings attracted so few people that they were abandoned before they began. Then Wellington Jaycees, in their youthful and energetic style, got behind him to ensure that his next one was well attended.

His leadership and dynamic personality enabled him to attract donations from many firms and individuals. Two trusts were set up, the Charles and Ella Elgar Trust, which has helped Heritage (Marlborough) to contribute to school boarding fees for many of its children, and the William Magnus Trust, which makes a generous annual grant to the branch.

Seventeen branches of Heritage were formed in New Zealand.

In Blenheim, the Rotary Club sponsored and supported the local branch.

An interim committee held its first meeting on April 29, 1943. Its members were Messrs P. Burgoyne, E. R. Clarkson, A. M. Gascoigne, E. A. Lucas, Norman G. Parker (interim chairman), A. C. Nathan, H. Robson, O. L. Watson and Frederic R. Cook (interim secretary).

A public meeting held on November 25, 1943, and addressed by Dr Mazengarb, elected the following foundation committee: Messrs A. C. Nathan (president), N. G. Parker (honorary secretary), P. Burgoyne, A. Butterworth, J. C. Irving, F. C. Cook, H. E. (Don) March, the Rev A. C. Whitelaw. Some other committee

members in the earlier years were Messrs A. Bell, F. A. Harrison, E. A. Lucas, A. A. Kitching, W. J. Perkins, L. Smith, G. M. Spence and the Rev. G. L. Taylor.

A tribute must be paid to the founders, most of whom were short of experienced staff, and were themselves involved in the National Reserve and the Home Guard. These duties they took seriously, for Cloudy Bay and Port Underwood were picked as likely landing places for the Japanese. Most of them can be credited with 20 or more years service to Heritage. Miss A. A. Woods, then matron of Wairau Hospital, was the first woman member of the committee. Now there are three.

Two functions were eagerly looked forward to. Each year Heritage families and the committee and their wives attended the Blenheim Operatic show with a box of chocolates to each mother and supper in the old Victoria League rooms above Macqueens. For many years the third Saturday in February provided good weather for picnic in the Sounds, with a generous supply of all kinds of craft by the Waikawa Boating Club and ample stores of ice-cream, cordials, sweets and fruit.

The comparatively early death of Norman Parker in 1960 broke a long association between him and the president, and R. T. Scott added to his heavy load of business and community commitments to carry on the secretaryship till the appointment of W. R. Olliver, who served Heritage well till 1968. In 1957, the election of the committee ushered in a younger generation in the person of G. S. Fuller, not so young perhaps, for he had established himself in the commercial life of the district. He and A. C. Nathan initiated an insurance scheme for boys whereby Heritage paid the premium on a life policy until a young man had completed his first year on a regular wage. Ten other branches of Heritage have now adopted this scheme.

The retirement from practice and the departure from Blenheim of Mr and Mrs Nathan in 1965 brought E. A. Lucas to the presidency and led to a willing hand-over of office to the next generation. Several of the founders had served on the committee for 25 years. They had established a tradition.

# Assistance With Your Tax Returns

Once again it is time for the completion and filing of your Tax Returns.

Is it a job you dislike or are unsure of?

What to claim and what not to claim.

Would you like assistance and advice with your return?

**YOU WOULD.**

Then we would like to take this opportunity to recommend to you the **BLENHEIM TAXATION SERVICE**, of 8 George Street (opposite Investment House). Phone 87-386.

Chris, at the Blenheim Taxation Service will advise and show you, how to claim the maximum exemptions, rebates and allowances in your return. His fees are deductible and scaled up from \$12.50, depending on time, etc., spent with you and on your return. If you wish to go in and see Chris, take with you the following:

Tax Pack, I.R. 12 certificates, details of employment related expenses, union fees, etc., details of life insurances and superannuation payments, name and details of your spouses earnings, name, date of birth and Family Benefit No. of children under 12 years, details of dependent relatives (e.g., parents living with you), receipts for donations and school fees and any other information you feel is relevant to your return.

Did you know that you can claim \$25 rebate for rates paid on an owner-occupied home? That donations are now claimed as a rebate of 50c in the \$ up to a maximum of \$175 and not an exemption as previously?

Just two of the many changes to the Tax Legislation.

These and other changes are the reasons why you should contact **BLENHEIM TAXATION SERVICE** for advice and help with your tax return.

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and a fullback  
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*\* Well, almost unanimously.*

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## APOLOGY

*A future historian could well include the invaluable contribution of the many sub-committees set up throughout the whole province and the strenuous efforts made by A. C. Nathan and N. G. Parker to ensure as complete a coverage as possible.*

*A new era was to begin.*



Crossfire regrets the omission in the April issue of C. M. J. Watson as the author of the stories TWINS BY TELEGRAM, SPECIAL VINO and HUMOUR—PETER McINTYRE. Our excuse — a new printing machine just installed and the rush to publish before Anzac Day. We acknowledge that Reg is one of our most prolific contributors and apologise for our omission.



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## EXCERPTS FROM THE MAY EXECUTIVE MEETING

Plans are under way to have the roof painted. The older section of roofing is blistering and peeling and of course, the new roof sections are still virgin iron. The Department of Labour has agreed that the RSA qualifies under the temporary employment programme to use unemployed labour to carry out the task. Thus, we will pay the wages and receive a refund later. The cost to us will be for material and equipment plus the pay of an overseer. **NOTE:** If you have experience in this type of work and are interested in supervising, please contact the Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 1979 AGM of the NZRSA takes place in Wellington from June 11-13. Marlborough RSA delegates are Ken Yealands, Ron Hemming and Paul Brodie. One associate delegate is also attending, namely Jimmy Maxwell, president-designate from Picton.

\*\*\*\*\*

The regional conference is being held at Westport on Saturday, May 19, and a strong contingent from Blenheim is attending.

### ANZAC DAY OBSERVATIONS

The appointed parade commander at Blenheim was forced to withdraw at the last minute. Excellent readings by Joanne Wilks and Gerald Ngawhika: Usual 6ft flash of flame not observed at commencement of Picton dawn parade (Bert used a live one this year). Excellent address given at Renwick by Squadron Leader Peter Thorpe and at Spring Creek by Squadron Leader Hugh Webb. Last-minute withdrawal of Army speaker at Kaikoura resulted in Gallipoli veteran Les Watson "volunteering." He gave a resounding address which was well received and earned him a bottle of his favourite "jungle juice." Omaka cemetery poorly attended in cold, gale-force wind. "John-boy" again at the helm to do his usual faultless service. Rex Thorstenson won an endurance record being on his feet from Picton opening at 7am to Blenheim closing at 10pm. Secretary-Manager reneged on christening the yard-glass recently presented to the club (he wasn't one of the thirst of the few). Excellent luncheon and floral arrangements by the ladies. Question: Why separate the VIPs?

Couldn't we shout them their drinks while they mingle? We could always set aside a table for their tucker so they're sure to get something. Happy 87th birthday celebrated by Gordon McIntosh with the help of 100 Pipers extract presented to help him remember (or forget) his birthday. A brawny pipe-bandsman providing the wind for Johnny Macfarlane to pipe- phew! A suggestion from a Dunedin visitor that instead of our poppies being tossed into the wreath at the cenotaph we plant them in rows in a box filled with sand. And did you notice a "girl" soldier on cenotaph guard- surely a first in this country!

### WELL DONE T.F.

Local T.F. units provided Cenotaph Guards at Blenheim, Kaikoura, Picton and Renwick. Personnel who carried out their duties so excellently were:

**Blenheim:** NCO 1 /c Sgt Tony Inwood, of Blenheim Section, C platoon, B Transport Company and his unit included the first female soldier to carry out guard duties, Driver J. B. Southby.

**Kaikoura:** NCO 1 /c Sgt H. Saunders and men of the Mortar Platoon.

**Picton:** NCO 1/c Sgt J. Bull and men of the Blenheim Platoon, D Company, 2nd Canterbury, Marlborough, West Coast unit.

**Renwick:** NCO 1 /c Sgt G. Wadsworth and men of the Mortar Platoon.

### ADVICE FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift,
- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- You cannot help the wage-earner by pulling down the wage payer,
- You cannot help the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.
- You cannot help the poor by discouraging the rich,
- You cannot establish sound security by spending more than you earn.
- You cannot build character and courage by taking away initiative and independence,
- You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

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# History of the Royal Air Force: April, 1918

## THE ROYAL AIR FORCE : APRIL, 1918

### Continued from Last Month

The Allied advance was so rapid that reserves of food became exhausted and special squadrons were detailed to fly rations to the front lines.

#### FINAL OFFENSIVE

On the Western Front, once they were in the lead, the R.A.F. gave the enemy no respite. In the Battle of Bapaume, and again during the attack in the Argonne, the R.A.F. proved a brilliant vanguard to advance. They disorganised German communications, paralysed reserve troops by intensive low-flying assault, and cleared enemy bases on the Belgian coast.

Organised bombing of railways, destruction of batteries, concentrated fire on strong points and perfect co-operation with infantry movements carried the day. The German Air Service fought back, but the increasing size of the R.A.F. and continual improvement in the power and performance of their machines,

played the decisive part. The Hindenburg Line fell to the Allies, Mons was captured, and on November 11 the Armistice was signed.

#### STRENGTH OF THE R.A.F. IN 1918

At that time the R.A.F. had over 200 squadrons, 22,647 aircraft of all types, including 3,300 on first line strength, 103 airships and a personnel of 291,000 officers and men. Training establishments had contributed much to air superiority and final victory. Besides Flying Schools there were centres for the training of recruits at Halton, for wireless operators at Farnborough, for observers at Brooklands, for riggers at Reading, a school of aerial gunnery at Hythe and of armament at Uxbridge. Flying training had made a striking improvement under the "Gosport" or dual-control system, which was adopted, late in 1917, for a School of Special Flying.



Martinsyde F 4- the fastest fighter in use during the 1914-18 war. Speed 144 m.p.h.

Daylight bombing in 1918. The aircraft is a D.H. 4 biplane, and at the middle right of the picture a bomb dropped by another machine can be seen falling.



## PERMANENT ORGANISATION

ON demobilisation, the R.A.F. was rapidly reduced. On October 1, 1920, its total strength stood at 2,812 officers and 23,862 men, less than a tenth of its previous personnel. One thing, however, preserved its organisation as a future fighting force—the Memorandum by Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard which was laid before Parliament by Mr. Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for Air, on December 11, 1919. This Memorandum laid the foundations for a highly trained and efficient force, with a minimum number of Service Squadrons, but with the widest scope for research, experiment and training. At home there were to be two squadrons as a "Striking Force," two Training Wings, one squadron each for Army Co-operation, Fleet Reconnaissance and Communication, half a squadron of torpedo machines and one flight each of ship-fighters, flying-boats and float-seaplanes. Overseas in India, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Malta, Alexandria and the Mediterranean there were to be eighteen squadrons, two flights of seaplanes and one flight of float-seaplanes.

## ESTABLISHMENTS

The proposed extensive organisation for training was a tribute to the foresight of the authors of the scheme. There were to be found experimental stations—for aeroplanes, seaplanes, torpedo machines and wireless. A Cadet College (Cranwell), a Training Centre for Boys (Halton), Technical and non-Technical Training Centres for Men (Manston and Uxbridge), were proposed. There were also to be Schools for Flying Instructors, and the Administrative and Technical Training of Officers, Schools of Photography, Navigation, Naval Co-operation, and Wireless and Electrical Training, and Balloon and Airship Schools. One Airship Station, two Aeroplane Repair Depots, one Mechanical Transport Depot and three Stores Depots completed the scheme.

## PERFORMANCE IN 1918

In 1918, aircraft of the Royal Air Force led the world—in numbers, in range, in speed and in rate of climb. Service aircraft reached a ceiling of 25,000 feet and exceeded the rate of 140 m.p.h.: the "North Sea" type of airship could undertake flights of a hundred hours' duration, and the personnel of 291,000 officers and men had, between them, seen service in Italy, Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Sudan, West Africa, India and the Near East. So it is not surprising that pilots recaptured the pioneering spirit of the years before the war and sought fresh conquests in the wider sphere of peace.

## THE NEW PIONEERS

The year 1919 was one of achievement. In June, Captain Alcock and Lieutenant Brown's Vickers "Vimy" made the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic: in July the airship R.34 crossed from Norfolk to Long Island and then back, a cruise of 6,000 miles. In December, 1918, a Handley Page, with Sir Geoffrey Salmond aboard, was piloted from Egypt to Delhi. A year later, Captain Ross Smith completed the first flight to Australia, doing the whole journey from Hounslow to Port Darwin in 124 hours' flying time. About the same time a through flight from England to India was accomplished by Squadron Leader MacLaren. In February, 1920, Wing Commander P. Van Ryneveld and Lieutenant C. J. Q. Brand left Brooklands in a Vickers "Vimy" and ultimately arrived at Cape Town in a D.H.9 on March 20. Such was the auspicious start of blazing a trail for Empire Airways. A great many, though not all, of the historic flights then made in which serving officers took part, were official R.A.F. entries.

## AIR-MAIL SERVICE

Mail had been flown already, by R.A.F. and Army Postal Service co-operation, between England, France and Cologne: the first official air-mail service from London to Paris

(Continued on page 20)

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### BRIEF HISTORY OF PICTON'S FREEZING WORKS — 1900-1979

With the recent announcement of Waitaki N.Z. Refrigerating Company's intention to move the freezing works south of Blenheim, Crossfire's sub-editor's request for a brief history has met with considerable enthusiasm from everyone approached by the author, and I wish to express gratitude to Mr Ron Davies and the management of WNZR for advice and assistance willingly given for this article.

The original freezing works were built on the present site in 1900, and killing at the new works began on Friday, December 21. Just three weeks later the s.s. Delphic sailed with the first shipment, 5000 carcasses of mutton and lamb, which were punted out to the ship, lying off the freezing works. By May 14, a mere 40,000 head of stock had been killed, compared with 500,000 or so treated at each of the Canterbury works, so it was decided to close down for the season.

The following season closed in June 1902, with a tally of 67,193 sheep and lambs, plus 214 cattle. Though encouraging, the tally was not enough to make the works a paying proposition. Despite the fact it was mid-winter, farmers from Marlborough and Nelson were invited to

what was described as a "banquet". Guests, who came from all over the district, were the most of the leading pastoralists and farmers of the

Gilbert Anderson, the principal speaker, reviewed progress of the industry since its inception 20 years ago. His emphasis on the part played by the works was that in the first season, 1889-90, had treated 1000 lambs in Canterbury, increasing to 500,000 in the season within 12 years. In his opinion the works in the Nelson district was equal to, if not better than, Canterbury for sheep growing, and exported 350,000 to 500,000 sheep annually. Over 50 years elapsed before the works attained and 60 years before the works had, although individually, neither Picton nor Nelson have yet attained the 500,000 kill mark. The record kill for Picton being 400,000 in 1978-79 has been put at 390,000 in 1979-80. 2000 cattle.

As a means of enlisting the support of the "banquet" appears to have been a success, although 80,000 head of stock were killed in the season, this fell well short of the 100,000 the farmers had assured the company.

In May 1910 a species of grubs

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"banquet" on July 6, 1902. Over the province, included lists and farmers.

principal speaker, in a very progress of the frozen meat 20 years before, with special by the company which init's treated 180,000 sheep and ealing to over a million a is opinion the Marlborough- l to, if not better, than ing, and eventually should sheep and lambs annually. fore the lower figure was the higher one was reached, er Picton or Nelson works D kill in any one season. The 480,000 in 1972. The kill for 8,000 sheep and lambs and

the support of the farmers, ve been a wasted effort, for ck were treated in the 1903 f the 150,000 to 200,000 the mpany they could supply. f "grub or beetle" was found

to be multiplying in a heap of fertiliser and attacking the woodwork, not only in the manure department but in other parts of the works. Earlier in the year the barely 10-year-old freezer and slaughterhouse building were found to be badly affected by dry rot. At this time the general manager, William Murray, informed the directors of the Christchurch Meat Company that the buildings required extensive repairs and heavy patching.

He added: "Broadly speaking, the whole of our Picton enterprise appears to have been an ill-advised step from a business point of view," but the directors had long since learnt that little, if any, profit could be made from the Marlborough frozen meat business. Their company was the fourth to make an attempt.

On the night of Friday, May 13, 1921, the manure and fellmongery buildings were entirely destroyed by fire. This was a blessing in disguise, for although the cost of rebuilding exceeded the insurance by some £20,000, reconstruction on modern lines was estimated to save the company £1000 per year.

Another fire occurred on November 6, 1942, in the late afternoon. This time the engine room was gutted, but fortunately the freezing machines were not greatly damaged, and temperatures in the freezers were held down until the meat stored there could be moved to Nelson. Repairs were effected by January 11, 1943. at a

(Continued on page 25 )

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began on November 11, 1919. Two years later a new service was opened from Egypt. Crossing Iraq and navigating by means of tracks ploughed over the Syrian desert, the R.A.F. flew mail, weekly, from Cairo to Basra, a distance of 1,135 miles.

#### EMPIRE ROUTES

As experience grew, more ambitious long-distance flights were attempted. In 1925 Squadron Leader Coningham led three D.H.9a's from Cairo to Kano and back: in 1926 four Fairey III'd's flew together from Cairo to the Cape. The next year a flight was made from Cranwell to the Persian Gulf, a non-stop trip of 3,400 miles. Then the first long-distance formation cruise proved beyond all doubt the reliability of the British aircraft engine. A flight equipped with Supermarine "Southampton" flying boats, commanded by Group Capt. H. M. Cave-Brown-Cave, hopped from England to Egypt, on to India, coasted round Australia and continued to Hong-Kong, Indo-China and Siam before taking up its station at Singapore: in all, a trip of some 23,000 miles. Such achievements laid the foundations for the Air Ministry's policy of reinforcing R.A.F. units overseas by means of non-stop flights.

#### RECORD FLIGHTS

As range of aircraft was developed so also was flying speed. The Schneider Trophy contest for seaplanes, originally purely a sporting event, had become a test of international air prowess with Governments entering specially-built aircraft manned by picked Service crews. After long consideration, the Air Council decided that it would not be inappropriate for the Royal Air Force to compete, and the High Speed flight was accordingly formed. Great Britain won the contest in 1927 and 1929, and in 1931 a third consecutive win secured the Trophy permanently. After the last Schneider contest, the High Speed flight made an attempt to capture the world's speed record. On September 29, 1931, Flight Lieutenant Stainforth,

in a Vickers Supermarine Rolls Royce seaplane, travelled over the four runs at an average speed of 408 m.p.h., breaking the world's speed record of 378.05 m.p.h., which he had set up himself two weeks previously.

The Supermarine S.6.B seaplanes which won the last Schneider contest and then captured the world's speed record by so handsome a margin were designed by the late R. J. Mitchell. Their engines were the Rolls-Royce "R," specially developed over a long period of research and testing. These aircraft and engines were the direct ancestors of the Supermarine "Spitfires" and Rolls-Royce "Merlin" engines which, something like ten years later, were to give the R.A.F. supremacy in the sterner tests of war.

To set a seal upon the conquest of the air the R.A.F. gained two other records. Flying a Fairey long-range monoplane 5,340 miles non-stop from Cranwell to Walvis Bay in 57 hours 25 minutes, Squadron Leader Gayford and Flight Lieutenant Nicholetts won the triple crown of absolute speed, distance and height. In the same year, 1933, Squadron Leader the Marquess of Clydesdale and Colonel L. V. S. Blacker, in a Houston-Westland P.V.3 with Bristol "Pegasus" S.3 engines, led a photographic survey over Everest. It only remained for Squadron Leader Swain to achieve the highest ceiling for heavier-than-air machines: he did so in 1936 in a Bristol 138, "Pegasus Special" engine, by ascending to 49,967 feet.

*(This article will be continued in next issue)*

### Worth retrieving

The old man was on his hands and knees, creeping about under the seats in the movie house and mumbling to himself.

Suddenly there was a screech and a woman's voice cried, "What do you thing you're doing down there?"

"I'm sorry," was the reply. "I'm looking for a caramel."

## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN

As a tribute to the fellow-countrymen of John Adamczyk, we are pleased to record the following extract from the Battle of Casino:

*On the 25th May, 1944, the Poles completed the destruction of the Hitler Line by taking Pieuimonte. In a fortnight, two under-strength Polish divisions and their armoured brigade had lost 281 officers and 3503 other ranks — of whom one-third were killed and 102 missing. These terrible figures speak for themselves. The gallantry of the Poles was beyond praise and there is a particular poignancy in the inscription on the memorial in their war cemetery which now stands on the slopes of the hill known as Point 593. By their selfless immolation the Poles converted that grim mountain into a memorial to soldiers everywhere.*

***We Polish soldiers  
For our freedom and yours  
Have given our souls to God  
Our bodies to the soil of Italy  
And our hearts to Poland.***

C. M. J. (Reg) WATSON.

## MARLBOROUGH RSA MEN'S INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

At the annual general meeting on April 5 the following officers and committees were elected for the 1979 season:

Patron: Mr I. V. O. (Sam) Duncan.  
President: Mr C. M. J. (Reg) Watson.  
Vice-President: S. C. (Sam) Lucas.  
Secretary: Jack Ahern.

Committee: Leo Simpson, Jock McPherson, Percy Haack, Irvin Pollard, Adrian Bishell, Bill Montgomery.

Match Committee: Adrian Bishell (c), John McPherson, Bob Gordon.

Mat committee: Bob Strickland, Leo Simpson, Charlie O'Rourke, Bill Montgomery.

Playing night, Thursday. Names on board by 7.20pm, play starts 7.30pm.

Annual subscription \$1; weekly mat fee 20c.

A welcome is extended to all financial members of the RSA and their sons aged 20 or over as associate members to come along and join and enjoy the amenities of this popular club, where the cost outlay is very modest and the accent is one of relaxation, companionship and the joy of competing in a team game and there are no gold clocks at stake. If in doubt, come along and have a trial roll-up before joining. You will be more than welcome.

## AFTER SIXTY YEARS

I'm pensioned — well  
I must not mind.  
The best is not  
Always behind.

Maybe that me  
Remaining years  
Will bring new songs  
New sighs, new tears.

But if God wills,  
And I will too,  
Much yet remains  
For me to do.

And bird and beast  
And flower and star  
As ever my  
Companions are

I'm pensioned — well,  
I must not mind.  
The best is not  
Always behind.

Author: Egbert Sandford.

## Condemned

In a cemetery, a man with head bowed stood lamenting over a grave. An acquaintance passing by heard him muttering, "Why have you gone away never to return? See to what unhappiness you have condemned me?"

After the mourner had walked away from the gravesite, his acquaintance approached him and remarked sympathetically, "I saw you standing over your first wife's grave."

"No, no," the mourner explained, "that was the grave of my second wife's first husband."

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## THE LUSITANIA TRAGEDY

### Wireless message, May 6, 1915—12.05am

To all British ships . . .  
Avoid headlands, pass  
harbours at full speed.  
Steer mid-channel  
course. Submarines off  
Fastnet.

### Wireless message, May 7, 1915—11.25am

To all British ships . . .  
Submarines active in  
southern part of Irish  
Channel. Last heard of  
south of Coningsberg  
lighthouse. Make cer-  
tain Lusitania gets this.

### Wireless message, May 7, 1915—12.40pm

To Lusitania . . . Sub-  
marines 5 miles south of  
Cape Clear, proceeding  
west when sighted at  
10am.

The above messages were received by the Lusitania and it is of interest to note Admiralty confidential memorandum of April 16, 1915, contained the following passage:

*"War experience has shown that fast steamers can considerably reduce the chance of successful surprise submarine attack by zig-zagging, that is to say, altering the course at short and irregular intervals, say in 10 minutes to half an hour. This course is almost invariably adopted by warships when cruising in an area known to be infested with submarines. The underwater speed of a submarine is very low and it is exceedingly difficult for her to get into position to deliver an attack unless she can preserve and predict the course of the ship attacked."*

In spite of these warnings and instructions, for which the Admiralty Trade Division deserve credit; the Lusitania was proceeding along the usual trade route without zig-zagging at little more than three-quarter speed when at 2.10pm on May 7, 1915, she was torpedoed eight miles off the Old Head on Kinsdale, by Commander Schweiger in

the German submarine U20. Two torpedoes were fired, the first striking her amidships with a tremendous explosion, and the second a few minutes later striking her aft. She foundered by the Head in 20 minutes.

She had been returning to Liverpool from New York with nearly 2000 people on board, all non-combatant British and Americans. 1195 persons lost their lives, including 291 women and 94 infants. This crowning outrage of the U-boat resounded through the world. There was a feeling in some circles that the Lusitania deliberately sailed into the trap in an endeavour to bring the United States into the war against Germany.

Churchill said later: "Even in the first moments of realising the tragedy and its horrors, I understand the significance of the event. As the history of the Great War is pondered over, its stern lessons stand forth from the tumult and confusion of the times. On two supreme occasions the German Government, quenching compunction, outfacing conscience, deliberately, with sinister resolve, severed the underlying bands which sustained the civilisation of the world, and united, even in their quarrels, the human family. The invasion of Belgium and the unlimited U-boat war were both resorted to on expert dictation as the only means of victory. They proved the direct cause of ruin. They drew into the struggle against Germany mighty and intangible powers by which her strength was remorselessly cut down. Nothing could have deprived Germany of victory in the first year of the war except the invasion of Belgium; nothing could have denied it to her in the last year except the unlimited submarine campaign. Not to the number of her enemies, nor to their resources or wisdom; not to the mistakes of her admirals and generals in open battle; not to the weakness of her allies; not, assuredly, to any fault in the valour or loyalty of her population or her armies; but only to those two grand crimes and blunders of history, were her undoing and our salvation due."

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In 1913 the old town wharf was replaced by Waitohi wharf, however, meat still had to be punted across a quarter-mile of water. The access road around the foot of the hill was built in 1959, and the first ship to make use of the new service was m.v. Port Lincoln, thus establishing Picton as an overseas port, shipping having been centralised to main centre ports since the Second World War.

Picton's first manager, James Allen Mitchell, was manager at Smithfield until put in charge of Spring Creek in July, 1899. When Mitchell went to head office in 1904, E. J. Kelly took over until 1911. Charles R. Suisted, the first chief engineer, was relieved of his duties in 1902 to make way for Andrew Macfarlane who, having been sent up from Islington in 1900, as supervising engineer during the construction period, was then out of a job. Macfarlane retired in 1921.

The senior staff of the Picton works have been:

#### MANAGERS:

MITCHELL, James A.	1899-1903
KELLY, Ernest J.	1903-11
HEALEY, Cecil M. S.	1911-31
HODGSON, William A.	1931-47
HANRAHAN, Edward W.	1942-50
TAYLOR, Tasman T.	1950-55
MURCHISON, Robert J. S.	1955-64
RYAN, Joseph M.	1964-65
DAVIES, Ronald C.	1965-76
MURDOCH, A. D. (Sandy)	1976-

#### CHIEF ENGINEERS:

SUISTED, Char	
SUISTED, Charles R.	1899-1902
MACFARLANE, Andrew	1902-21
EADIE, James	1921-26
MASON, George	1926-31
HODGSON, William E.	1931-36
GORDON, Herbert L.	1936-56
NEILSON, Cuthbert B.	1956-74
ALLAN, Douglas R.	1974-

#### CHIEF CLERKS:

NEWMAN, W	
NEWMAN, William H.	1904-09
BARRON, Oliver E.	1916-53
DAVIES, Ronald C.	1953-65
LITTLE, David J.	1965-

By John Frisken.

## In uniform

The guests in a Perth hotel were awakened one night by wild screaming in the corridor. They discovered a beautiful girl in an extremely sheer negligee fleeing madly down the hall from a gentleman who was nude.

The next day it turned out that the would-be Romeo was an English major and he was promptly court-martialled by his commanding officer. His lawyer won him an acquittal however, by virtue of the following paragraph in the Army Manual:

"It is not compulsory for an officer to wear a uniform at all times, as long as he is suitably garbed for the sport in which he is engaged."

## Shaking hay

A draftee from Brisbane was sent to Honolulu and was enraptured by the supple hula dancers he encountered there. He wrote home to his father. "I've got to tell you Dad, these girls sure know how to shake hay while the son pines."

## Under the sun

A girl stripped in front of her locker to get into her bathing suit.

"Say," said another young lady. "how did you get that wonderful all over tan?"

"Easy," was the reply. "I spent the weekend at the beach and did everything under the sun!"

## High stakes

A man came home to find his wife in the arms of his best friend. The best friend, not at all embarrassed, said, "Look, we are grown up, civilised human beings. Let's not act silly about this. And just to show ourselves how civilised, let's play a round of gin rummy for her."

"Ok with me," the husband said. "But just to make it interesting what do you say we play for a cent a point on the side?"

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# Dangerous moonlight

A Miami psychiatrist says he has found scientific evidence for one of the oldest of old wives' tales: that human behaviour follows the phases of the moon.

He is in good company. Shakespeare. Francis Bacon. Robert Boyle, and doctors up to comparatively recent times believed the moon could make men mad. But the rise of rational man has relegated such beliefs to the fiction shelves.

Dr Arnold Lieber wants to make these beliefs respectable. He was in Britain last week to promote his book, "The Lunar Effect," published by Corgi, which presents the evidence he has collected and previously published in academic journals of unimpeachable respectability, such as the "American Journal of Psychiatry."

He has found what he says is a significant correlation between violent acts like murder or grievous bodily harm and the waxing and waning of the moon. The danger periods are when the moon is full, or when it is new; times when the earth, sun and moon lie in a straight line, producing maximum gravitational pull.

If the times at which murders or violent attacks are committed are known accurately enough and are plotted as a curve, their rise and fall matches with fair accuracy the phases of the moon. Examining almost 2000 murders committed in Dade County, Florida, between 1956 and 1970, Dr Lieber found they tended to cluster in the period after the new moon and before and after the full moon.

That such assaults cluster around the time of the full moon with a frequency which scientists would call "highly significant." (The odds against such a clustering arising by chance are greater than 100 to 1 against). Oddly, in this case there was no significant correlation with the new moon.

Dr Lieber's results have been criticised in the scientific literature, but they have also found sup-

ported after they have been attacked, so no significant correlations would be expected with time of death.

This is indeed why the correlation is stronger with assaults, he says, since the time at which assaults occur is known much more accurately than that of murders. But his results, he admits, "are displeasing to the rational scientific mind. I risked the derision of my colleagues by doing these studies."

Dr Lieber's theory of how the moon exerts its effects is not yet much developed, but he suggests that the gravitational fields act on the material of the human body in some yet undiscovered fashion. In those near the edge of a breakdown, he says, the effect can push them over into violence or suicide.

Doctors, psychiatrists and policemen should be aware of the lunar calendar, he says, and prepared for an increase in their work-load near full moon and new moon. Individuals who feel they may be susceptible should stay out of bars, lock up their weapons and stay away from people they feel like arguing with.

## By NIGEL HAWKES Science correspondent of "The Observer"

The degree of clustering is such that most scientists would deem it "statistically significant" — that is, the odds against it arising by chance are greater than 20 to 1 against. (Some more cautious scientists would call such a result "probably significant").

More impressive results were extracted from an examination of cases of aggravated assault, which in Britain would probably be defined as grievous bodily harm or assault with a deadly weapon. Again using Dade County figures, Dr Lieber shows

port. A study supported by the United States National Institute for Mental Health, and carried out by Dr Edward Malmstrom of the Wright Institute at Berkeley, did find a significant correlation between homicide and the lunar cycle, while two doctors in Houston failed.

This failure, says Dr Lieber, arose because the Houston doctors used the time of death of the murder victims in their study, instead of the time of injury, introducing a distortion into the statistics. Some murder victims do not die until some time

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**TODAY'S GREAT DRINK**

# Our Fair Ladies

## BLenheim LADIES NOTES

Mrs J. Allan presided over a fair attendance at the April meeting of the women's section. Mr W. Giffin, chairman of the RSA welfare sub-committee, was guest speaker and spoke on the aims and objects of Poppy Day. We would like to thank all those members who helped us on Poppy Day and also the RSA members who helped us so willingly.

\*\*\*\*\*

A dedication of love and remembrance was what one of our lady helpers described in the doing of posies for the servicemen's graves on Anzac Day. A great number of ladies came along to do the flowers and we are grateful for their help. We would also like to thank all those who gave flowers and greenery.

\*\*\*\*\*

MOIRA WILSON

## RENWICK BRANCH

It was good to see members of the Blenheim RSA at the 9am service at Renwick on Anzac Day. We considered it one of the best services we have had and our thanks go to the ladies for the excellent morning tea served afterwards in the hall. Each year we think it will be the last that Johnny McFarlane turns up for the service, but rain, wind or sunshine he is always there. Our thanks to Dick Sales for looking after him on that day.

Our April meeting was a fairly quiet one, but we did decide to take our husbands out to dinner. As our section had some funds on hand, we did just that on April 28. It was almost enjoyable meal at the City Hotel and I'm sure the 33 of us who attended will be thinking of joining the weight-watchers. We hope to repeat the evening again in the future  
NOLA YEALANDS,  
President.

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May 2.

Dear Folk,

The above, or care of it, is our address. Much better and speedier than going through Foreign Affairs. Post airmail though. I'm sending this letter to Min of Ag, Blenheim, and hopefully they'll distribute to a few selected people. There are photocopying facilities here in Foreign Affairs and Raro Treasury, but I have not oozled my way into the affections of those who operate them — as yet. Helen and I arrived after sitting in a cigar (they call them aircraft) for an hour at Auckland while they repaired a fuel problem. The flight was uneventful, apart from eating and drinking too much with no exercise. A tropical storm hit Raro (the abbreviation is commonly used by we locals) just before we did. Several attempts at landing didn't work so the captain told us that if it didn't clear we

were off to Tahiti. Anyway, we finally crashed down on to the tarmac. On leaving the plane it was impossible to breathe, all the atmosphere had been replaced by water. We survived, probably all the easier because we had the red carpet treatment. I loved it. Complete with leis and all our 80kg of luggage we were whisked off to the Rarotongan, about 6 miles away. Very comfortable, with lovely views over the lagoon. Fairly ordinary meals except breakfast when the selection of fruit is superb. No Watties. Met the Minister on the first morning, a bright bloke who seems to know what's needed in the agriculture scene with enough realism to also know they can't be achieved. Departmental head seems amiable and competent and they have gone out of their way to be of help. Fortunately they've been involved in a seminar being run by the South Pacific Commission this week and most of the time I've been bumbling around the back roads where the production is, feeling somewhat apalled. I shouldn't be, because I really haven't seen anything worse than I had been told existed. The

(Continued on page 32 )

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job looks to be interesting, after all any change can only be a forward one.

The island is genuinely beautiful and is all that one imagines a tropical paradise to be. Scenery in all directions is superb. Distant scenery that is. When one brings the sights down to 10ft or so you focus on mountains of rusty Leopard beer cans. As beer drinkers go, Kiwis are milk-sops.

The main road around the island is 21 miles, avoiding 20% of the potholes, dogs and children probably adds another five miles. We had a Honda "Life" car on the weekend, 335cc and it needed every one to climb out of foot-deep potholes. The inland roads are slush overlying mud for there has been a lot of rain. The house we are going to move into at Muri is a delight, or will be when a few repairs and painting have been done. It overlooks a magnificent lagoon in which there are four islands. Our place is opposite the second to bottom island, just up the road from the yacht club. Between the house and the lagoon is the football field. When Helen and I were there last Saturday there were horse races on the Muri beach. Bare-back, with proper (handwritten) tote tickets, doubles, quinellas and so on. We watched one race for nine-year-olds (that is, riders and not horses). I suspect that the stewards may have criticised some of the tactics employed, but who cares. In any case there weren't any stewards!

Working hours are 8 to 4, with a fair bit of give and take at both ends. In fact, the office population seems to diminish after lunch.

Reverting to the house. In effect, one large room about 30 x 16ft which incorporates kitchen, dining and lounge. There is a free-standing divider about 10ft long with drawers, cupboards and bookshelves. Lounge suite is comfortable, the couch turns into a double bed. There are occasional tables and four comfortable chairs. Formica dining table with four chairs. Gas cooking and freezer-fridge. On the east and south sides of this room is a 9ft-wide concrete terrace with the eave extending a further 2ft. There are four outdoor chairs and a table. Two bedrooms (twin and double) open off the north end of the main room and to the west there is a carport with usual offices opening off. The view is glorious from all angles, but especially overlooking the lagoon.

In the section, about a quarter-acre, there are coconuts, pawpaws, bananas and sundry other plants I don't know. Next door is a paddock of taro. Awful stuff!

Last Saturday night was Island night at the hotel where they had an umukai (hangi to you pig-islanders). About 3pm a couple of pigs and all the necessary trimmings were loaded into a pit and covered. It was opened with due ceremony about 8.30 and magnificently served with all possible trimmings, mostly local produce. Everything that had been in the umukai tasted the same to me, however I was howled down on this.

The floor show was spectacular, mainly hip-wobbling. Helen could possibly give you a better description. Then there was dancing to Polynesian music. I can do it, one just stands and wiggles slowly.

Climate is quite amiable, warm, but a soft warmth that's rather pleasant to live in. It certainly doesn't make me want to turn evangelist and reform the Cooks' economy overnight. Probably just as well. We wondered whether we would miss things to which we were accustomed in NZ. We've forgotten what we were accustomed to!

The considerable isolation here makes matters of world importance quite insignificant. Locals with whom I've come in contact are amiable, kind and slightly aloof. Good to talk to, but they don't want anything of us and we shouldn't of them. Pigs, small children (naked and blending with the road), dogs (all with a bit of Labrador somewhere) abound. Speed limit 35pmh on open road, a brave man who tries it, pot holes make you airborne.

Some vital statistics: Leopard lager, \$10.08 per two dozen; Gin, \$5.30 per 26oz.

Must go, cheers to all.

HELEN & DAVE McCALLUM

### Another round

"Where were you?" she asked when her husband came stumbling through the door at three in the morning.

"You're going to be very happy when you hear what I did tonight. Tonight I bought something for the house."

"And what did you buy, dear?" she asked, beginning to feel sorry she had yelled at him.

"Well, dear, I bought two drinks for everybody in the house."

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# Sub-Branch News

## PICTON BRANCH NEWS

Activities in Picton for the month of April included a very successful social on Easter Saturday. Although not a large crowd attended the evening was considered a success both socially and financially by social committee chairman Ross Fredericks.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the Dawn Parade on Anzac Day. More than 100 servicemen were on parade, in addition to guides, sea scouts and cubs. It was heartening to see these youngsters turning out as strong as ever. The parade of servicemen was the best for at least seven years. Parade commander was Maurie Phillips and cenotaph prayers were led by Father Kelly. The guard was formed by members of the Marlborough TF, under Sergeant John Bull.

A welcome and thanks were extended by president Jim Taylor and participants were invited into the clubhouse to enjoy a warming "cuppa(?)" and breakfast. The Waikawa playcentre mothers have been in charge of catering for after-dawn parade functions for some years now, and in appreciation executive member Ross Fredericks organised a "whip-around" which netted the playcentre in excess of \$60. (With a government subsidy of four-to-one for their new building, to my mind this was a thoughtful gesture, particularly in the year of the child). On behalf of the playcentre, Mrs Margaret Macdonald expressed their thanks to the RSA members.

Guests included four WW1 men and approximately 30 RSA men from Blenheim and districts.

A smaller than usual contingent of Picton members travelled to Blenheim for the 11 am parade.

The season has arrived for Wednesday evening pool tournaments and interested and intending players should watch the games board for notice of games. Mike Taylor has again been delegated to organise the evenings.

The Picton branch RSA AGM will be held in the upstairs lounge at 8pm on Tuesday, June 5. The balance sheet will be available for perusal from May 22.

The Picton Clubhouse AGM will be held on Tuesday, June 26, in the upstairs lounge.

### PICTON WOMEN'S SECTION

April is a busy month for most members as it incorporates not only the monthly meeting but also

the Easter holidays and of course the activities connected with Anzac Day.

Some of us were involved in the Poppy Day sales, others with the making of bunches of flowers for the servicemen's cemetery, and several of us were on duty on Anzac Day itself, from the dawn parade onwards, through the breakfast and on to the cemetery service.

There was a good turnout of women section members at the 5.45am dawn parade, some accompanied by children and grandchildren. It was particularly gratifying when we realise that this is the Year of the Child.

Our retiring president, Betty Tapp, accompanied by secretary Eileen Mattingley, laid the women's section wreath.

The presence once again of the guard of honour and the bugler playing the Last Post as the moon was descending behind Waikawa Bay on that beautiful morning, made this ceremony in the early dawn deeply moving as we remembered with sadness all those young men in their prime who never returned home to enjoy life and peace as we do now. I personally feel very strongly that the freedom for which they died should be valued and respected. Surely our heritage should be to rise above pettiness and show consideration and co-operation towards others in the lifespan left to us.

Co-operation is exactly what we have had for some years now from the Waikawa Playcentre in preparing the food for Anzac Day.

Their supervisor, and a member of our section, Margaret Macdonald, works in close liaison with a member of the executive (her father, and whose name I have been forbidden to mention). They arranged the menu, which varied on the day from cold crayfish and egg salad, chicken, to hot savouries, saveloys, chow-mein, etc. A fine effort from the playcentre girls.

On arrival at the club at 5am Clive and I found some of the guard of honour boys already waiting on the porch. Full marks for punctuality, as I recall the same thing happened last year. Mention must be made of Doss Fredericks and Mavis Town, who have held the fort in the kitchen for many years now, thus allowing others of us to attend the parade without worry. Your co-operation (that word again) is very much appreciated, girls. After dawn parade the usual mad dash back to the club where section members pitched in and did a great job of helping out, and later, cleaning up.

As previously mentioned, several of us accompanied our menfolk to the servicemen's cemetery. The army guard carried our flowers in their vehicle, which was a big help. We arranged the flowers around the cenotaph with a special posy for the grave of our late beloved secretary, Mille

Whitcombe. Barry, present at the time with Audrey, who helped arrange the flowers, was very appreciative of our gesture.

Later in the day some of us, including retiring president Jim Taylor, called at the Blenheim Club, thus returning the earlier visit to Picton of Paul Brodie and a big group of Blenheim members.

All in all, a very busy but rewarding day, which for me and most others, holds deep significance and any effort is amply repaid by being able to contribute in some way.

JOAN M. TAYLOR.

*He's gone! No weeping mourners mark his going*

*Gone! While I am left here to carry on.*

*Ne'er a sign denotes his mode of passing,*

*Not a stone or stick is raised to him.*

*Real good pal, most staunch and true of  
cobbers*

*Dear old cobber, ever lucky Jim.*

*What? You shudder! Do I speak so strangely?*

*Calling "lucky" one who's surely dead?*

*Why? My cobber ain't a buried hero—*

*He has gone — just back to old N.Z.*

## Rejected reward

Once upon a time there was a king whose country was menaced by a terrible dragon. He sent word far and wide that any man brave enough to slay the dragon should be rewarded with one-half of his kingdom, one-half of his treasure, and the hand of his beautiful daughter.

Finally a prince arrived from a neighbouring kingdom who fought the dragon and killed it. The king called him in to receive his reward.

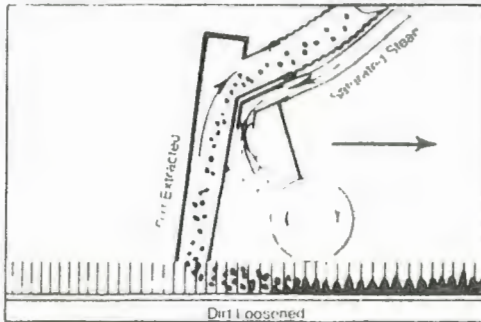
"Sir," said the brave prince, "I'll accept with pleasure one-half of your kingdom, and one-half of your treasure."

"Don't forget," said the king, "my daughter also belongs to you."

"Ah," said the dragon-slayer, "you may keep your daughter. For you see, your highness, I am a fairy prince."

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# crossword puzzle 6

## ACROSS

1. Health resort  
 4. Levels  
 9. Droop  
 12. Secreted  
 13. Drawing room  
 14. Cravat  
 15. Gland  
 17. Employ  
 18. Japanese food fish  
 19. Orient  
 21. Opening in Doric frieze  
 24. Performer on ice  
 27. Candlenut tree

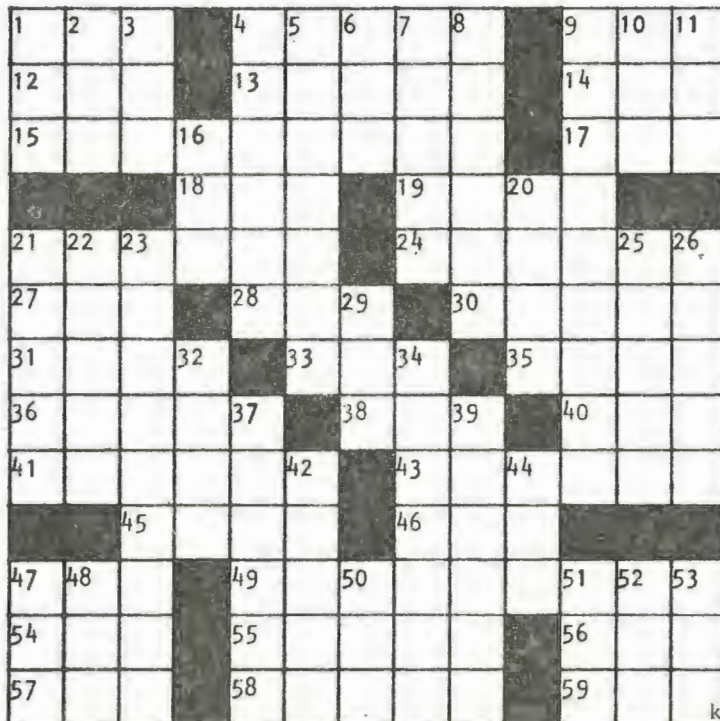
28. And so forth (abbr.)  
 30. Upright pillar  
 31. Italian city  
 33. Still  
 35. Emerald Isle  
 36. Forbidding  
 38. Auditory organ  
 40. Greek letter  
 41. Recluse  
 43. Cylindrical container  
 45. Intertwine  
 46. Egg (comb. form)  
 47. — Khan

49. Took, as a levy  
 54. Heir  
 55. Killed  
 56. Tiny  
 57. Edgar Allan —  
 58. Mountain lakes  
 59. Madrid cheer

7. Roman date  
 8. Lurks  
 9. Stammerer  
 10. Three-toed sloths  
 11. Turn to the right  
 16. Oklahoma Indian  
 20. Gratify  
 21. Swamp  
 22. Ham it up  
 23. Tatar conqueror  
 25. Distinguished group  
 26. Of the kidneys  
 29. Letter  
 32. Feminine name  
 34. Small drum  
 37. Most fastidious  
 39. Birds  
 42. American electrician  
 44. Inlet  
 47. Viper  
 48. Anything sticky  
 50. Sailor  
 51. Cardinal number  
 52. Lamprey  
 53. Scottish river

## DOWN

1. Haggard novel  
 2. Fasten  
 3. Do sums  
 4. Avoid  
 5. Sort  
 6. Hebrew priest



(Answer on Page 87)



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