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Editorial

This is the first free issue of Crossfire and we thank Adcentre for making it possible. The only charge in future will be for postage (at 17c per copy) for those on the mailing list.

A temporary box was placed in the club with Crossfire magazines and the advice that it was free, but a donation would be welcome. However, as fast as money was put in the box, it was nicked, and we must thank Syd Robinson for making two new boxes with a lock-up section for the donations.

We apologise for not publishing a September issue but the changeover of advertising, shortage of material, machinery break-down and a gradual build-up of delays in printing earlier issues was

responsible.

We hope from now on to publish in the second week of the month.

There has been some response to our plea for suitable material, along with the accusation that the magazine comprises advertising, old history and stale jokes — surely the reason for our request.

Two young Atlanta engineers were reminiscing about their college days when one of them remarked, "I sure wish I could have gone to Georgia Tech".

Said his friend, "Oh, hell, you wouldn't have liked Tech too much. The only graduates they have are football players and whores".

"It just so happens that my wife graduated from Georgia Tech", the first man snapped.

"Oh, really?" answered the friend, realising his faux pas. "Tell me, what position did she play?"

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It would be a nice gesture if you paid the subscription an enable him to have each issue posted to him.

See the Secretary/ Manager if you would like to take advantage of this postal service.

EDITORIAL

The Editor is Paul Brodie and the sub-editor Allan Gardiner.

PRINTING

Crossfire is printed by Gards Print Ltd, 14 Bomford Street, Blenheim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence should reach the Editor by the 30th of the month preceding publication.

PLEASE NOTE

All opinions expressed in Crossfire are those of the individual contributors and do not reflect MRSA official policy— unless otherwise stated.

President's Page

At an extraordinary general meeting held in the Pavilion Lounge last month, life membership was bestowed on the following members: Mr Len Biddiss, Mr F. Conway (secretary Awatere sub-branch), Mr Win Giffin, Mr Sid Robinson and Mr Ken Pitman (Kaikoura sub-branch).

To all these members I offer my congratulations.

Honorary membership was also bestowed on Mr David Beaumont. Dave is a most worthy recipient. He has been sounding the Last Post at RSA funerals for the last 23 years with never a hesitation when requested. The RSA owes him a deep debt of gratitude.

It is very disturbing to learn that glasses are being stolen from the club. Any member detected can expect a term of suspension. Following a report from the finance committee, the executive reluctantly agreed that there would have to be an increase in bar prices. Jugs to 90 cents and spirits up by 10%.

I will list a few of the increases faced by the Association. Rates up \$200, electric power up \$100 per month, postage up 40%. The general wage order will amount to about an extra \$2000 per year, also an increase in heating oil. Plus the fact that spirits bought and held in stock pre-budget

are nearly exhausted, which means that all spirits bought from now on will carry the extra 20% sales tax imposed at the last budget. Beer has also increased in cost by approximately \$140 per tank. The raffle profits have also fallen heavily, mainly because of increased cost of prizes. The clubhouse committee has maintained the prizes at the previous level at the expense of profit.

As a result our balance at the bank has fallen from a debit balance of \$157.62 at 31/3/79 to a debit balance of \$8285.27 at 31/7/79.

From the above, members must realise that increased costs cannot continue to be absorbed and must be passed on.

It is my personal opinion that our subscription is too low, bearing in mind that our of our \$6 we pay next year, \$3 goes in capitation, 15c goes to Chartered Clubs Association and 10c to the Air Cadet League. The low subscription means the charter and special efforts are expected to provide the finance to run our Association.

I visited Picton RSA recently. Their building is coming along nicely and is a real credit to Jim Maxwell and his men. I expect we can look forward to the opening very shortly.

KEN YEALANDS

Our Last South African Veteran

Richard Allen (*Personality of the Month in April 'Crossfire*), was the last of Marlborough's South African War Veterans. He passed away on August 24, 1979.

The following is the RSA prayer delivered at the funeral of South African War Veterans and repeated here as a final tribute to him.

"Almighty and Eternal God, who in a now distant day didst look down upon us, when the African Veldt was our camping ground, and the Kopje, the lurking place of our enemies. We thank thee that in that day, midst the fortunes and misfortunes of that campaigning, Thou didst give us many comrades loyal and true to the highest

traditions of our race.

We thank Thee, for the patience and fortitude with which our sick and disabled comrades have carried on. Assembled now, to bid our last farewell to our comrade in arms RICHARD ALLAN, whose earthly trek is now finished, with confidence we leave him in thy gracious care, believing that the God of all earth will do right.

We commend his loved ones to Thy gracious favour, and seek wisdom of Thee, that we may be found ready when for us the Last Post shall be sounded.

Hear us, and bless us we pray Thee, for Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. — Amen.

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EXCERPTS FROM AUGUST EXECUTIVE MEETING

1 Underwater pump received for installation in corner of bowling green. To be placed in a well with the hope that not only will it prevent flooding of the green during heavy rain, but that it will also help to reduce basement flooding of the cellar and rifle range (RSA gave a grant of \$100 towards the total cost of \$207).

2 A second flagpole base has been completed by the County Council at Fairhall Cemetery near the civilian section. When a serviceman is buried in that section the flag will be flown from the new pole.

3 New RSA Club model rules received and being studied by the management committee. It does not look as though associations will be affected.

4 Random number selector ordered for clubhouse raffles.

5 Inland Revenue advised taxation will be on investment income less approved charitable donations, less the \$1000 exemption at personal not company rate.

6 Remit being forwarded to NZRSA for

the next Dominion conference on the sponsorship of Mr M. J. Clark requesting NZRSA approach Electric Power Authorities for reduced power charges for income tested pensioners.

7 The Borough Council advises that we cannot extend the building southwards into the existing car park and point out that according to Commercial Zone bylaws we should in fact have 16 car parks instead of the present seven.

8 Outward Bound request for sponsorship regretfully declined.

9 Abbotsford Slip Appeal — donation box placed in bar lounge.

10 Possibility of losing present caterers.

11 Rising overheads concerning management, finance, charter and clubhouse committees and several meetings of the above committees have since taken place. General consensus is that cost increases cannot be absorbed.

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Report from RSA rep. on Air Cadet League

Noel Healy reports that at the meeting of the ACL it was decided to investigate the feasibility of purchasing a glider for Westport-Greymouth use. The glider under consideration is currently being overhauled at Masterton. Cost of the glider is estimated at approximately \$2500.

The Greymouth Squadron have made an application to join the Marlborough/Nelson/Westport League. They have until now been attached to Christchurch who have gone into recess. The application has been favourably received and negotiated.

The annual shoot was held on a recent Sunday morning and on behalf of the RSA I presented the trophy donated by the RSA to the Blenheim Squadron. The Blenheim squadron is to host the shoot next year, during August.

MEN'S INDOOR BOWLS END-OF-SEASON SOCIAL

The Marlborough RSA Men's Indoor Bowling Club will hold their end of season Xmas Social and Presentation of Trophies on Saturday, October 27, in the Social Lounge.

Members and friends welcome, also members of combined indoor bowling club.

Admission: Men and friends, \$1; all ladies a supper plate.

Music by NOEL NEILSON on electronic accordion. Dancing 8pm to midnight.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Jack Ahern; runner-up, Ike Cameron.

Pairs: Norm Jellyman, Percy Haack (s).

Rinks: Charlie Amey, Ron Scott, Richard Beal, Jim Howe (s).

Club night aggregate: Syd Robinson 404pts, Reg Watson 390pts.

Club championship aggregate: Charlie Amey; runner-up, Jim Howe.

Jack Ahern, Secretary.

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MEMOIRS OF AN EARLY POKER SCHOOL!

In the late 1940s a poker school was formed in the old RSA club. One of the first members was that irascible character, the late Bert (Gundog) Teuton, and another was the pint-sized late Norm Herd, with a glass eye and his famous saying, "when banana skins are flying I'll come slipping home to you." Nerm was a cleaning steward at the club and was a much-loved character among members.

Another notable was the late Bill Pennington, who at the beginning of WW2 was senior armourer in the Air Force at Woodbourne, where he retired about the end of the war. Unfortunately, Bill developed a passion for bending the elbow and became quite a problem in the last few years of his life.

Another notable character who is no longer with us was Eric Nicholl, a radar and radio expert with Safe Air.

Almost no story of the Marlborough RSA would be complete without the legendary figure of Johnny McFarlane, who was an early member of the poker school, and he was closely followed by that independent, colourful bike-riding carpenter — yes, you guessed it — Jim Slade. To complete the school it was decided they should have at least one member with charm and brains — so I joined the school!!!

One evening it was decided that the poker school would take place in the residence of Norm Herd. Norm owned a Model T Ford truck, and after getting a supply of flacons we embussed in Norm's truck.

Bill Pennington, who was "nicely thank you," was for safety's sake, travelling in the

cab with Norm. On the tray and hanging on to the hood were Jim Slade, Eric Nicholl and myself. Johnny McFarlane arrived later on his bike and though hard to believe, he was almost sober!

We had just about about reached Lee Street when Norm remembered he had left his groceries at the club and he started to make a U-turn. Realising that one wheel would mount the kerb, I hung on to the hood and as the wheel hit the kerb I glanced to my right to see Eric about to be pitched head-first on to the road. I reached out and grabbed him by the collar of his coat and hauled him back on board.

For years after he sang my praises for saving him from a nasty accident.

We eventually reached Norm's home and I had to hold a torch for him while he fiddled around with the fuse box until the lights came on.

Bill had uncanny luck early in our game, but he soon got a bit full and started falling asleep. Finally, we lifted him up, chair and all, and sat him in the corner to sleep while we carried on with the game.

Finally, after we had drunk all the beer we decided to head for home. We loaded Bill aboard and headed for his Richmond St home. Jim and I steered Bill to his backdoor and we switched on the lights and helped him up the steps. He got in the door but the effort was too much and he crashed among the furniture, making one hell of a row.

We quickly closed the door and decided we had better make ourselves scarce.

And so ended on evening in the life of our poker school.

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LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN



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

Lord Louis Mountbatten

No doubt every returned man and woman was shocked at the murder of Lord Mountbatten. It was very fitting that our Dominion President, Doug Leuchars, was among those selected to attend the funeral, as so many New Zealanders had served under the Admiral in two wars.

THIS MONTHS PERSONALITY

C. M. J. (Reg) WATSON

Born on October 7, 1910 in the then little village of Hornby in Christchurch, Reg and his parents moved to the Taranaki town of Waitara shortly after his birth. Several years later, mainly due to ill health, Reg returned south to live in Papanui with a rich aunt. He began his schooling there at St Joseph's School, where in 1923 he won first prize in Christian Doctrine and second in general proficiency. In November Reg will be attending the centennial of St Joseph's.

After several years in Papanui Reg returned to his parents in Waitara and on completing his schooling, he joined the general drapery firm of Arch Rawles and later worked for other firms of a like nature in Taranaki. In 1936 he joined L. Evans & Co. in Wellington, where he worked for two years.

In 1938 Reg joined J. E. Thomas's in Blenheim where he remained for just on 40 years until his retirement in 1977.

During that time Reg had four and a half years service as a signaller with the 27th Vickers Machine-gun Battalion in Egypt and Italy during WW2.

He took part in the famous battles for El Alamein and Casino and several others, where he lost many cobbles, and still considers he was lucky to have returned alive.

Offered a commission late in the Italian campaign, Reg declined as his main ambition was to return to his wife Chris and the son he had seen only in photos — as he was born eight months after Reg arrived in Egypt.

During his years in Taranaki Reg represented North and South Taranaki at hockey on eight occasions and went on tour with the Taranaki team in 1935. A year later he was selected to represent Wellington against Canterbury.

After his arrival in Blenheim Reg met a



very beautiful nurse whom he courted and on September 10, 1940, he married Christina Hosking, daughter of Dr R. V. Hosking and Mrs Hosking, of Rarotonga, and this union produced three children, John, Michael and Ann.

Reg gave up hockey and joined St Mary's Tennis Club where he quickly rose to the position of club captain and finally vice-president for several years. After long service, which included several years on the Marlborough District Tennis Council, Reg was honoured with life membership of St Mary's Tennis Club.

Returning to Blenheim after the war, he rejoined Thomas's and he and his wife joined the Blenheim Golf Club, where Reg's flair for administration soon came to the fore as he was appointed club captain, a position he held for several years, and he also served as president for a term in 1952.

Reg and his wife were foundation members of the Mayfield Kindergarten fund-raising committee and Reg served a term as president and was for several years on the Marlborough District Kindergarten Council and served as a delegate to the Nelson, West Coast, Marlborough council.

Perhaps the best assessment of Reg's service to the Marlborough RSA is contained in the Awards Committee file of February 1973, which I will now quote:

Application for the award of the Gold Star and certificate of merit to

18323 C. M. J. WATSON,

Marlborough RSA

for Meritorius Service

Since the award of the Certificate of Merit in April, 1969, Reg Watson has continued to play a leading part in the social activities of this association. He was awarded life membership of the Marlborough RSA in 1968. He has served the men's indoor bowling club in various capacities for 19 years, the last eight as president, and was elected a life member in 1971.

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OPEN SEVEN DAYS

He is still president of the association's social committee which is playing a vital part in maintaining association membership and is currently active with arrangements for the next Dominion RSA golf tournament to be held in Blenheim this year, for which arrangements and finance are well in hand.

Reg Watson's organising abilities have been primarily devoted towards important sectors of the associations activities and me executive feels that he merits further recognition in the form of the NZRSA Gold Star Badge Award.

Reg was elected to the executive of the Marlborough RSA in 1958 and has served continuously for 14 years. He was vice-president in 1959 and 1960 and president in 1961. He was appointed chairman of the social committee in 1958 and has held this position continuously to date, with the exception of the year he was president.

As chairman of this committee he was the organiser of the two giant Xmas stocking raffles in 1958 and 1959 that resulted in \$6000 for the new clubhouse building fund.

From 1958 until the formation of a clubhouse committee he conducted all cabarets, housie and social functions and for two years was responsible for conducting and running teenage dances. He organised three Anzac concerts and assisted in running weekly euchre evenings in the social lounge for two years.

Reg has represented Marlborough RSA as delegate at Dominion conference on three occasions and regional conferences four times.

He personally conceived a plan for carpeting the bar lounge at no cost to the association funds and as chairman of this project was responsible for raising \$2261 in six months.

He was appointed chairman of a sub-committee to raise funds for the Wairau Hospital nurses recreational hall building fund, the target being \$1000. In three months, the committee raised \$1476 and won the nurses' shield. The RSA total exceeded the total of all others assisting.

Reg is currently chairman of the committee to raise funds to assist Heritage to overcome last year's debt.

Reg has given long and continuous service to the men's indoor bowling club as committee member, secretary and president, and must be considered the backbone of this flourishing club.

Reg also served as RSA delegate for two years on the local CORSO committee.

Mr I. Drummond, District President, comments: Reg Watson I have known since he became an active member of the RSA. His citation shows lengthy and consistent service at all levels, both to the community and to the RSA. If ever a person was dedicated to the RSA and the welfare of servicemen and women and their dependents, I would say Reg Watson would be very high on the list. I have no hesitation in recommending him for a Gold Star Badge.

The NZRSA awards committee granted this recommendation and Reg was invested with his award on April 28, 1973, in the social lounge by Alan Johnstone, vice-president of the NZRSA.

Reg continued to serve on the executive for a further three years and finally stood down at the end of 1976, just prior to his retirement from work.

However, Reg is still working for the RSA and is currently serving his 14th year as president of the indoor bowling club.

Since his retirement he and his wife have been on two holiday visits to his wife's homeland in the beautiful unspoilt island of Rarotonga and are planning a third visit next year.

Reg has created a new interest since his retirement — that of short-story writing. Humorous wartime incidents and anecdotes on club personalities have been contributed on 16 occasions to Crossfire, including the 25-year history of the indoor bowling club and the 17-year history of the annual diggers indoor bowls tourney.

Reg has also had five stories accepted for our national magazine Review, three of which have been published with two to come.

Here ends an epic story of service and we say again "thank you" to Reg Watson and wish him a happy retirement.

—C. M. J. WATSON

DID YOU REALISE THAT?

Duty and Sales Tax now account for 57% of the wholesale price of draught beer?

OIL HEATING

It appears that the installation of the thermostat, switching off the boiler on Sundays and other unnecessary times has achieved savings in oil. Figures below show oil consumption and cost to August of each year.

YEAR	LITRES USED	COST
1976	7090 (.009 cts)	\$638
1977	9720 (.142 cts)	\$1380
1978	9489 (.165 cts)	\$1566
1979	7595 (.175 cts)	\$1329

We still have 1200 litres of our ration left this year.

WARNING

Wind Windows up on Locked Cars

The latest method thieves use to enter your car is by dropping a ring on a cord through a partly open window to lassoo the inside lock or window catch. The ring is normally worn on a cord around the neck of the thief.

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25 YEARS AGO . . . and 30 years ago . . .

Extracts from the minutes of executive meeting held September 8, 1954:

Present: R. T. Scott (chair), J. A. Bell, F. C. Delaney, J. R. Naysmith, L. D. Waters, R. C. S. Bush, F. A. Harrison, F. R. Lightfoot, W. J. Perkins, J. M. Walsh and P. G. Tizard (secretary).

Beer prices: Mr Bell explained why the increase in the price of beer in jugs had been effected — matter referred to standing committee.

Finance: General account receipts were £756/6/11d and payments £960/17/5d. Cheques for bar and tobacco purchases were being held until the 20th of the month by which time it was expected the bank account would not be overdrawn. Relief account receipts were £78/19/11d.

Cemetery: Two working bees have planted roses and standards to support them. Deputation to meet the M.C.C. works committee to devise better methods of keeping graves in good order.

Relief: There were 39 visits to Amersfoote and 121 to Wairau Hospital, including 11 Home Servicemen. Poppy Day receipts were £318/10/5d, an increase of £35 on 1953.

Loophole: Mr Scott undertook to arrange for workers to assist on Friday evening in preparing the fourth issue for posting.

Battle of Britain: Mr Naysmith reported that the Brevet Club had received an invitation from the RNZAF to attend the memorial service.

Xmas Party: Mr Delaney introduced the subject of entertaining those who had helped the RSA at a Xmas Party. Mr Bush asked to submit definite plans.

RSA executive meeting September 7, 1949:

Present: W. A. Hood (VP), A. Broadley, R. O. Wanden, R. K. Harvey, J. A. Bell, F. O. Delaney, L. D. Waters, F. W. Horton, G. H. Stace, J. S. Bain (secretary).

Charge for Membership: Deferred until next meeting.

CMT: Letter from Dominion President, Sir Howard Kippenberger, congratulating associations on results achieved with CMT referendum.

Dud Cheque: Reply received from Palmerston North re ex-serviceman for whom we cashed a cheque — since dishonoured. A registered letter had been sent to the man giving him 21 days to pay up or the matter would be handed over to the Police.

War Graves: War Graves Division expressed regret that the MRSA had decided on upright headstones instead of raised plaques for the new plot at Omaka Cemetery. Matter to be further discussed with M.O.W. Blenheim and the NZRSA.

RNZAF Woodbourne: Letter to C.O. inviting station personnel to use the Clubhouse when in Blenheim.

Hospital: During the month 59 contacts were made.

Mens Indoor Bowls: Reported that this was not going well. However the ladies section was thriving.

N.Z. Diggers Bowling Tourney: Subcommittee organised for conduct of the tournament.

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UNSUNG HEROES

The N.Z. Engineers ("Gingerbeers"), realising in their planning for the Battle of El Alamein that various units of our troops would have to penetrate a very deep and wide minefield to get into position for the attack, had developed a secret device that was intended to cut quickly a safe pathway through the minefield, and at the same time save the lives of our Sappers.

The secret weapon consisted of several specially armoured tanks with two long steel arms extended out the front, between which ran a revolving drum with a series of long steel chains that were thrown out ahead with great force, cutting down deep into the sand and so detonating mines.

The idea was brilliant, but although initially successful and beginning to make an impression, the motors fitted to drive the drum proved to be too weak for the job and broke down.

So the Sappers had to do their usual job of lifting the mines by hand, at the cost of time and lives, because Jerry had developed a double mine system where, if the first mine was successfully lifted, a fine wire attached to a second mine below would detonate.

Result: Many dead Sappers and a long delay that undoubtedly saved my life. As a signaller we had been scheduled to arrive in position on Miteiriya and have our guns ready for action by 3am. Due to the breakdown of the Flail tanks, we arrived just at break of dawn.

As we climbed down from the truck and started to move forward to the gun sites, we heard an urgent shout from our Sergeant telling everyone to stop. There, only yards away in the dawning light was a huge bomb with a trip wire attached only a foot from the sand and right in our path.

Had we arrived as planned in the dark most if not all of us would have been blown to pieces.

I am still puzzled why Fred Majdalany in his book "The Battle of El Alamein" failed to make mention of this unusual detonator.

This Flail tank most certainly (with modifications) was used in the battles for France later on.

Finally I salute and have written this true story as a tribute to those unsung heroes, the "Gingerbeers," who gave their all to pave the way for the rest of us to move forward and win the ultimate victory of our so-called freedom.

C. M. J. WATSON

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FROM THE EX-MALAYAN ASSN (WHANGAREI)

In the past few months we have come in for some flak from RSA committee members who accuse the Branch of not patronising the RSA.

We all understand that young married men with families can't be there every night and haven't the money to do that anyway.

It is an unfortunate sign of the times that the ones who spend the money over the bar and on the pool tables, whether they are RSA, HSA or the new associate members, are the ones who set the standard of the club.

It should be remembered though, that while we belong to the Ex-Malayan Services Assn. we are all members in our own right of the RSA and therefore we should be looking towards getting members from among the younger returned servicemen to stand for positions on the RSA executive committee and the RSA club committee.

Unless we are prepared to take part in the running of the RSA and the club we will find we are members of a tavern.

It would be a very sad day to see

returned servicemen overlooked in favour of those who spend the almighty dollar, but who have not earned the right to belong to an exclusive club, and that is what the RSA is.

For you to join you have given time from your life overseas with the armed forces.
(Makes you think, doesn't it — Ed).

A nifty deal

A clerk known at the office for figuring out new ways to save money went to his bank to ask for a ten dollar loan, offering as collateral a Government bond of \$1000.

After approving the request, the banker asked his customer why he should want to put up \$1000 as security for a \$10 loan.

"Well, you see," explained the accounts clerk, "to rent a safe-deposit box for the bond would cost me four dollars a year. This way you'll keep it safely for me and I'll pay you 70 cents interest on the loan, which puts me about \$3.30 ahead."

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The following is the text of an article recently published in Wellington's Evening Post.

"BEADY-EYED FERRETS" PLEASE TAKE NOTE

A kick in the pants, or pantyhose, has just been delivered to the Human Rights Commission. Umbrage has been taken at one of the Commission's letters expressing concern at discriminatory job advertisements in daily newspapers.

A firm's recent advertisement for a receptionist-clerk implied that a man would not be considered, the Commission maintained in a letter to that firm.

The Commission wanted to know as soon as possible why the firm advertised in the described manner.

The reply to the Human Rights Commissioner was as follows:

"Attention: Mr/Mrs/Ms P. J. Downey,

Dear Person,

Your wretched letter of September 13, 1979, is acknowledged without enthusiasm. Your commission expresses its concern at the number of discriminatory job advertisements which are continuing to appear in daily newspapers.

Our firm, too, is concerned. It is concerned that our country's already vast, over-populated, monolithic army of bureaucrats has spawned yet another battalion of beady-eyed ferrets whose duty is to pore through newspaper advertisements in remorseless pursuit of a sexist word. Or a marital word. Or a religious word. Or an ethical word.

And, in passing, what is your view of discrimination on the grounds of ethical belief? Ethical means pertaining to morals. Can one advertise for a moral person? An immoral person? Think about it. Perhaps you (and your Act) meant ethnic, but you probably have yet another Act to deal with that.

But we digress. You ask, in a peremptory and disagreeable way why our firm advertised for a receptionist-clerk in the manner described above.

We advertised for a bright young girl be-

FOR MEN'S SHOES

*When comfort counts . . .
You can count on . . .*



CRESSWELL'S SHOE STORE

9 MAXWELL ROAD, BLENHEIM.

TELEPHONE 89-243

cause we wanted to employ a bright young girl. We did not seek a bright young boy, a bright old man or a bright old woman (surely age should be another ground for discrimination — think about that too), nor even a bright transvestite of any age. We wanted to employ a bright young girl, and did.

If your pretentiously titled office is concerned about human rights, spare a thought for the employers' human right to seek staff they think would be best suited to fill a particular vacancy.

And desist from pestering business houses, who have more and better things to do in difficult economic times than defend themselves against trivial nit-picking.

Yours faithfully"

Perspective

Lyn and Sue, two city office workers, were having lunch. "I dropped my pills," explained Lyn, "because I was scared of the side-effects."

"I still take mine," said Sue, "because I'm afraid of the front effects."

**MONKEYS
DISOWN US**

Three monkeys sat on a coconut tree,
 Discussing things as they're said to be.
 Said one to the others: "Now listen you two,
 There's a certain rumour that can't be true,
 That man descends from our noble race,
 The very idea is a disgrace.
 No monkey ever deserted his wife,
 Starved her babies and ruined her life.
 And you've never known a mother monk
 To leave her babies with others to bunk.
 Or pass them on from one to the other,
 Till they scarcely know who is their mother.
 And another thing you'll never see,
 A monk build a fence round a coconut tree.
 And let coconuts go to waste,
 Forbidding all other monks to taste.
 Why if I put a fence around the tree
 Starvation would force you to steal from me.
 Here's another thing a monk won't do,
 Go out at night and get on the stew.
 Or use a gun, or club, or knife,
 ;To take some other monkey's life,
 Yes, man descended — the ornery cuss —
 But brother, he didn't descend from us."

HIRE - A - BIN

Lex Agnew

REGISTERED REFUSE COLLECTOR

Tel. 89-520

**NO PETROL!
CARLESS DAYS!**



SAVE WORRY AND ENERGY!

PICTON BUTCHERY LIMITED

HIGH STREET

FOR ALL YOUR
MEAT
REQUIREMENTS

PHONE 125

FREE DELIVERY

ANYONE YOU KNOW?

Heard about the moron who:

- Moved to the city because he heard the country was at war.
- Cut off his fingers so he could play the piano — by ear.
- Took liquor to bed so he could sleep tight.
- Was so modest he went to another room to change his mind.
- Went into the living room because he thought he was going to die.
- Turned out the lights of his car before changing gear.
- When his son in the Army told him he had grown another foot, he sent him three socks.
- Saluted the refrigerator because it was a General Electric.
- Took hay to bed with him to feed his nightmare.
- Backed out of the bus when someone said they would pinch his seat.
- Took a yardstick to bed so he could see how long he slept.
- Died with his boot on so he wouldn't hurt his toes when he kicked the bucket.
- Put the clock under the mattress so he would wake up on time.

- Called his girlfriend "Postscript" because her name was Adeline.
- Wouldn't ride on a double-decker bus because there was no driver up top.
- Took milk and sugar to the pictures because there was a serial on.
- Put iodine in his pay packet because he had a cut in his salary.
- Went to the football because he thought a fullback was a money refund.
- Wouldn't pay his bus fare because his name was Crime and Crime doesn't pay.
- Stayed up all night studying for a blood test.
- Took whisky on the roof so he could have a drink on the house.
- Wouldn't go out with his wife because he heard she was married.
- Wore two pairs of socks to golf because he thought he might get a hole in one.
- He thought his bed was too narrow, so he put a bedspread on it.

"How did you get that ugly scar across the bridge of your nose?"

"From glasses."

"Why don't you get contact lens?" ✓

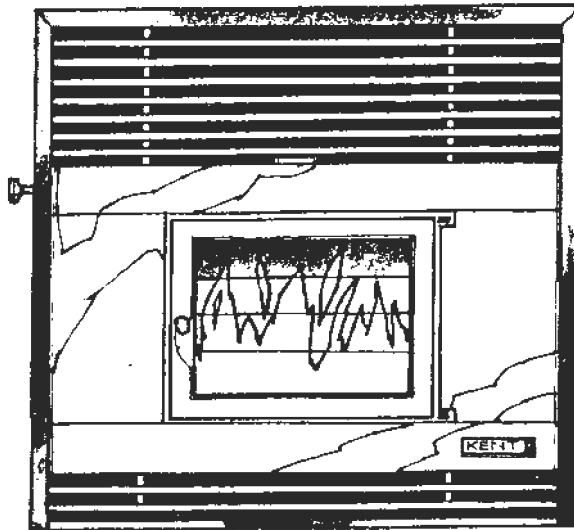
"They don't hold enough beer."

BLENHEIM TILE AND HEATING CENTRE

39 SCOTT STREET. TEL. 89-125.

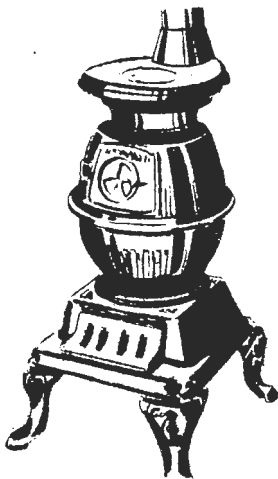
OPEN FRIDAY NIGHTS.

SAVES WOOD
SAVES WORK
EXTRA CLEAN
FINGERTIP
CONTROL



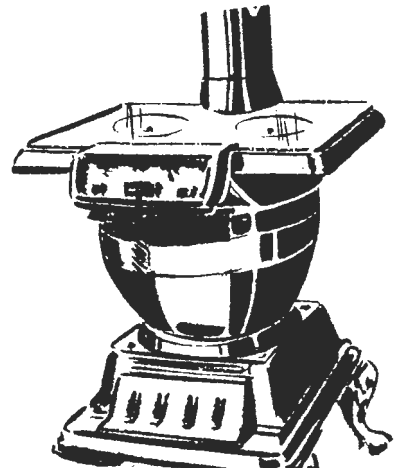
STYLISH
DESIGN
FAMILY SAFE
EASY
INSTALLATION

KENT LOG FIRE



PITTSBURGH

STOCKISTS OF
JUNO
WARMRITE
BELMAC McKAY
KENT LOG FIRE
KENT VIKING
FIRE NYMPH
POT BELLY STOVES
VISORS
BLAZECOE



**FATSO Complete with flue
\$408**

WE MAKE TILED OR BRICK SURROUNDS, WALL UNITS, HEARTHES.
WE SELL, INSTALL AND SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION.

Free Quotes — Trade Discounts — Discount for cash or terms arranged.

DISCOUNT FOR RSA MEMBERS.

Yarrall's Modern Drapery Limited

The Store that Specialises in Household Linens

26 SCOTT STREET,
 BLENHEIM.
 Phone 84-898

42 HIGH STREET.
 PICTON.
 PHONE 787.

SHE

INFLATION TRENDS IN OUR CLUB

The following figures are published to show how inflation has mounted on most expenditure in the last few years:

LICENCES & FEES	YEAR	APR-JUNE	ANNUAL	CLEANING MATERIALS	APR-JUNE	ANNUAL
	1976	115	455		249	682
	1977	267	695		123	501
	1978	835	882		481	995
	1979	968			315	
BAR REPLACE				MAINTENANCE		
	1976	89	1432		940	5786
	1977	99	923		1621	5315
	1978	155	2453		1475	8444
	1979	227			4779	
POSTAGE/PHONE				PRINT/STATIONERY		
	1976	204	703		444	1027
	1977	230	897		422	886
	1978	263	1045		587	985
	1979	301			611	
ELECTRIC POWER				OIL HEATING		
	1976	299	1660		368	1699
	1977	467	2496		581	1781
	1978	538	2727		680	1766
	1979	531			673	
RATES/INSURANCE				WAGES		
	1976	1247	3102		9456	42445
	1977	88	3424		11426	48621
	1978	1747	3623		12328	54859
	1979	2044			14637	

A. R. WEBBY CA



FOR ALL YOUR

FOR FRIENDLY S

LUBRICATION



TUNE-UPS

2a PARK TERRACE, BLENH

HAVE YOUR DRAPES MADE TO MEASURE IN OUR MODERN WORKROOM

SHEETS ★ TOWELS ★ BLANKETS ★ DACRON BLANKETS ★ EIDERDOWNS ★ TEA TOWELS ★ PILLOWCASES

COUNTER LUNCHES

1976	100	422	
1976	100	422	
1977	110	688	
1978	186	771	
1979	198		

SPECIAL EFFORTS COMPARISON 1978-79

	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Receipts	2017		2388			
Receipts	2017	2388	1896	1832	1935	2625
Payments	904	2483	2045	1450	1052	3890
Balance	+1113	-95	-149	*+382		

HELP!

We desperately need contributions from YOU, our members for this magazine. There must be many humorous incidents that you can recall — so share them with others — through CROSSFIRE!

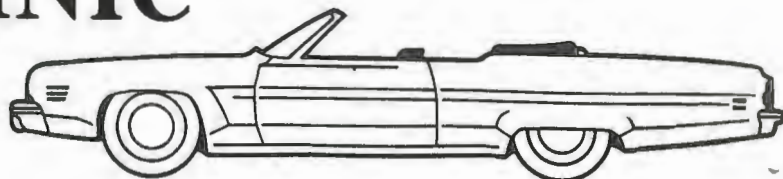
SERVICE MEMBERS BADGE

The badge has been re-designed and the new one to be issued to Service members looks like this:



CAR CLINIC

SERVICE



LENHEIM

CAR REPAIRS



MAINTENANCE

Blenheim RSA Women's Section

Our section's programme for the August social afternoon was a bright and lively account of the new shopping venture at No. 9 Market Street, called "Three Ways."

This shop is operated by Elaine, Jenny and Jan who explained their individual involvement and invited everyone to view their fashions and soft furnishings.

Elaine compered a fashion parade arranged by Jenny and we all saw what the well-dressed matron, her daughter and grand-daughters could be wearing this summer. Mrs Kennington conveyed thanks to these girls and wished them a successful future. The sales table and raffles did brisk business. Mrs Watson and Mrs Beach holding the winning tickets.

The women's section life members and committee recently met for an evening meal. It was a very pleasant two hours and so nice to see the ladies, who because of illness and personal reasons have been unable to attend the social afternoons.

Guests at the Veterans' afternoon were welcomed by vice-president Mrs K. Gane. Cards and housie were played with much enthusiasm, especially from the card players who appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Entertainment and vocal items were provided by Mr Watson and our members. Mrs C. T. Smith and Mrs Woodhouse were the lucky winners of the raffles.

The next veterans' social afternoon will

The September social afternoon held a great deal of interest for a large number of members. We now have 190 financial members, which indicates how popular is membership to the women's section.

Mr Bob Eathorne, gardening supervisor for council parks covered a wide range of gardening — from seed planting to container growing and display. At the conclusion of his talk he answered many individual questions and I'm sure members gained new ideas from his suggestions. Our president, Mrs Kennington, thanked Mr Eathorne for sparing us his time.

McMurtry's Furnishings

For all your Furnishing and Cabinet-making needs you
can't go past the experts

McMURTRY'S

*Phone 83-199 for free quotations and
the best of service.*

REMEMBER: They will trade your old Furniture.

McMURTRY'S FURNISHINGS,

THE BIG STORE
in High thru to Wynen Streets.

Veterans: Cards and housie are two popular past-times at our veterans' afternoon and this month two charming lasses — Denise and Cherlyn Powell entertained with songs and dances. Mrs Kennington thanked our guests for contributing to another happy day. The next veterans afternoon will be held on October 15 at 2pm.

Bowling: The ladies indoor bowling club concluded a successful season with an afternoon of novelty bowls. Mrs Ursula Taylor, president, presented the trophies and thanked all the members for their support.

JO ALLEN

"Review" hit by Increased Postage

Each month 88,000 copies of Review are printed each month and the additional postal charges for the nine monthly issues is \$12,300 and from April 1, 1980, the postage will cost \$40,000, a 100% increase in less than a year.

Despite representations by NZRSA to the the Postmaster-General, no concession will be made and to stay within the budget the September issue will not be published. We can probably expect further cuts in issues or other economies to keep the magazine going.

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

BLENHEIM COMMERCIAL CLEANERS

P.O. BOX 290 BLENHEIM

Manager: Mr. D. GARDINER

**LET US
PUT A
'SPARKLE'
BACK INTO
YOUR OFFICE**

**PHONE 87-075
FOR A FREE QUOTE**

*We are
Cleaning Specialists
in:*

**CARPET CLEANING
OFFICE CLEANING
WINDOW CLEANING**

REGISTERED MEMBER OF N.Z. FEDERATION OF MASTER CLEANERS



Quick payer

Bob met a married woman at a party. After a little play, he propositioned her. The married woman thought it over and figured it would be an easy way to make some side money without her husband knowing it, so she made a date for him to come to her home when her hubby would be at work.

Bob kept the date and just before leaving the house, he placed a \$20 bill on the end table.

Later that day when hubby came home, he saw the \$20 bill and the wife was startled when he asked if Bob had been there that day.

The wife thinking she had been caught, decided it would be best to tell the truth.

"Yes," she gasped, and waited fearfully for his next question, but none came.

"He's a good bloke," said the hubby, "he borrowed \$20 from me at the party and I'll be blown if he didn't pay me back the same day he said he would."

Diminishing deed

After several unsuccessful advances, the country college student visiting Melbourne asked his pretty but standoffish date, "Do you shrink from making love?"

"If I did," she quipped, "I'd be a midget!"

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



Picton RSA News

In August's Crossfire I promised to give an opening date for the new additions, but as yet there are too many ifs and buts for the builders to commit themselves. We will probably be able to use the upstairs lounge by the end of this month.

I was very impressed with the ceiling. The material that has been used is Artex, a type of plaster rolled on to the ceiling, then blotched with a cloth, leaving a very impressive finish. With that job complete, it appears that all that is left to be done is wallpapering, carpeting and fittings, plus toilets, etc., to be built into the indoor bowling room downstairs.

The president has advised me that the official opening won't be until the whole job is completed.

Items of interest from the RSA and clubhouse committee meetings are:—

* A letter from the ex-Malayan Servicemen's Assn seeking permission to run raffles in the club was accepted and

approved, with the proviso that the organisers liaise with the social committee.

* Social committee reported an \$88 profit from the August social. The September social was poorly attended and netted only \$27, and the committee are still contemplating cutting out, or reducing, the number of socials. The next social is planned for October 13.

* It was agreed to replace roses at the cemetery, a job which has now been completed by Clive Taylor.

* To coincide with the opening of the extensions, the executive committee will have the RSA-tyoe remembrance symbol ready. This will probably be a lighted cross with "Lest We Forget," capable of being switched on for a few minutes at 9pm each night.

* The District President for Marlborough, Nelson, West Coast (Mr Vern Anderson) has been invited to open the clubroom extensions.

Two business partners were talking. "I think it's about time we taught that new secretary what is right and what is wrong."
"Okay," agreed the other. "You teach her what's right."

W. BARRATT LTD

MERCERS

P.O. BOX 78, PICTON.

TELEPHONE 221.

STOCKISTS OF ALL

MEN'S BOYS' and LADIES WEAR

also

TRAVEL BAGS and MANCHESTER LINES

DRY CLEANING:

In by 10am

Out by 2pm

New Zealanders in the Libyan Campaign

(Continued from last issue)

The men required for these mobile parties would have to be self-reliant and tough, and used to desert conditions. Upon the suggestion of General Wilson, it was decided to select New Zealanders. Although they were not used to such conditions in their own country, their six months' desert training in Egypt had shown their marked adaptability to the new environment. In the New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment were men used to an out-door life, with the other qualifications required; and from this regiment the members of the new unit were chosen, supplemented by specialists from New Zealand anti-tank and machine-gun units.

Major Bagnold's experience qualified him to lead such an expedition and he was made commanding officer. Lieutenant W. B. Kennedy Shaw was borrowed from the Palestine Department of Antiquities to act as intelligence officer. The adjutant and quartermaster was Lieutenant L. B. Ballantyne, a New Zealand cavalry officer, and

the medical officer was Lieutenant F. B. Edmundson of the New Zealand Medical Corps. The three patrols were commanded by Captain D. G. Steele, from a New Zealand machine-gun battalion, Captain P. A. Clayton, formerly of the Egyptian Survey Department, and Captain E. C. Mitford, an officer from a British tank regiment. Before the war Captain Clayton and Lieutenant Shaw had made journeys similar to those of Major Bagnold.

Captain Mitford's patrol had its trucks ready by the first week in August 1940, and the first training trip was undertaken in the desert near the Qattania dunes. When all the trucks were ready, the whole unit left Cairo to undergo four days' final training. They practised crossing the Ghara el Rammak dunes. Sometimes a truck would be driven too quickly over the crest and would not touch the surface again until it landed at the bottom, generally with no worse damage than a bent steering wheel.

(Continued on Page 26)

ALL PESTS ERADICATED BY

MARLBOROUGH-NELSON PEST CONTROL LIMITED

137 CHARLES STREET, BLENHEIM.

PHONE 6232

PHONE 7180 Greymouth

— 82-206 Nelson

**CONTROL OF BORER, SPIDERS, FLEAS, ANTS, BEES, WASPS, COCKROACHES,
SANDFLIES, MOSS, RATS, MICE, MILL MOTH, CARPET BEETLE, SILO AND
GRAIN FUMIGATION.**

COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC — FREE INSPECTION AND QUOTATIONS — TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPRIETOR: MR VIC CULLIS

It seems a hungry lion prowled through the jungle one day in search of food.

In a small clearing he saw two men sitting near a tent. One was reading a book and the other was tapping away at a typewriter.

He immediately pounced on the man reading the book and ate him up. But he didn't bother the man at the typewriter.

Why?

Well, this lion wasn't as dumb as you might think!

He knew that readers digest — but writers cramp!

"I was just trying to teach my boy that you can't put more in a container than it can hold," Bill complained, "when along came a woman in slacks."

CHARTERED CLUBS — RECIPROCAL VISITING RIGHTS

Members may have read that under the Sale of Liquor Act there are no reciprocal visiting rights between chartered clubs.

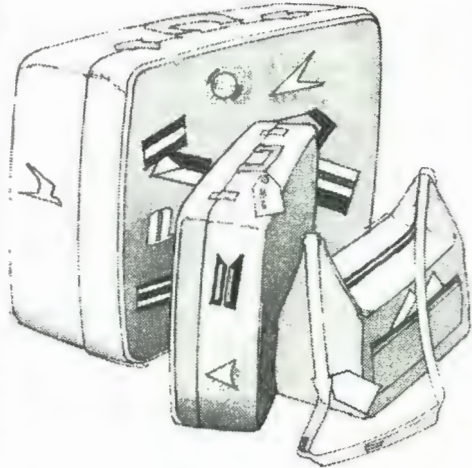
However, this does not apply to Returned Services Associations, and you are still welcome visitors at other RSAs.

We have received advice that following representations by the Association of Chartered Clubs to the Licensing Control Commission, the status quo regarding this visiting rule is to continue until legislation is passed making such inter-visits legal.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 11

S	H	O	P		C	H	I		P	O	W	S
C	A	R	E		H	O	T		E	M	I	T
A	L	A	R		A	P	E		P	I	S	A
N	E	L	S	O	N		M	A	S	T	E	R
		O	N	C	E		L	I				
B	R	A	N		E	L	S	I	N	O	R	E
O	U	R			R	I	A			V	O	W
B	E	T	R	A	Y	A	L		P	A	T	E
		A	N		S	T	I	R				
B	A	L	T	I	C		L	O	O	M	E	D
E	D	I	T		O	R	A		B	O	R	E
E	A	R	L		O	A	K		E	R	I	C
F	R	E	E		L	Y	E		D	A	N	K

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 overseas 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: Cnr Queen and Victoria Streets, Phone 362 3001
South Auckland: 42 Atkinson Ave. Otahuhu, Phone 63 629
Wellington: 57 Willis Street, Phone 722 509
Christchurch: 85 Hereford Street, Phone 797 505

ANZ BANK
 Ready to listen-Ready to help.

or axle. The New Zealanders soon became experienced in crossing dunes, in scattering to meet air attacks and in dismounting for action. A supply party then set out to make dumps of fuel and supplies.

Captain Clayton, with five New Zealanders and one of his former Arab employees, embarked on a reconnaissance of the Jalo-Kufra road. His two motor trucks reached Siwa via Matruh and, with a section of the Egyptian Frontier Administration to assist in the carriage of petrol and water, moved southward through the Sand Sea along the route that Captain Clayton had taken some years before on a survey expedition. At a place called Two Hills the Egyptian party left and returned to Siwa. They could not go beyond the frontier, as Egypt was not at war with Italy. Captain Clayton, the five New Zealanders, and the Arab drove across the desert as far as the Jalo-Kufra road, which was the main enemy route between Benghazi and Kufra. They remained concealed for three days to watch for traffic. Unable to drive farther westward because the car tracks would have been observed, and the element of surprise lost, Captain Clayton

sent out a patrol on foot for five miles to find out the width of the traffic lane. One of the chief difficulties of desert reconnaissance is that tracks persist so long in the sand and are so easily visible from the air. On one occasion a plane, following to pick up prisoners or wounded, was able to distinguish a patrol's tracks at a distance of fifteen miles. Old tracks, if not on hard ground or moving dunes, remain for years. Those of Major Bagnold's exploration in 1932 were clearly defined and tyre-marks from the car patrols of 1916 were also identified.

Soon after Captain Clayton's preliminary journey, three columns of fully-laden trucks, piloted by Major Bagnold and Lieutenant Kennedy Shaw, made up the first military force to cross the Great Sand Sea. The largest dune-field in the world, it seemed specially designed to prevent any outflanking movement from the east. Together with the barbed wire and fortifications which the Italians had built for 200 miles in the north, the Great Sand Sea cut off the interior of Libya by a continuous barrier. The absence of water and the

(Continued on Page 33)



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Dryers and Electric Ranges*

W. G. G. Cuddon Limited

ALFRED STREET, BLENHEIM.

TELEPHONE 84-299

**PICTON WOMEN'S
SECTION NEWS**

Twenty-eight members attended the September meeting which had originally been scheduled for a visit to Pollard Park. However, this was postponed until the weather becomes more settled into our glorious marlborough summertime.

Instead we had several competition games, the winners being Dorothy Dahlberg, Margaret McLaughlan and Pearl Myles.

The monthly raffle this time went to Mrs Jeffcote Sen.

At the commencement of the meeting we stood in silent respect in memory of our former member Peg Barker, who had moved with Stan to Rotorua.

Our president, Sybil Phillips, spoke of the considerable practical help Peg had given, not only to our own section, but also the RSA at the time of the original charter club alterations, when she volunteered to make all the new curtains. We remember Peg as a hard-working member for the section.

Two new members were recorded: Mrs M. Wright, of Wesley House, and Mrs Phyll Ivamy (Cecil's wife).

From October the meetings will be held in the evening to allow our many outdoor bowlers to attend.

The 33 members who braved the teeming rain to attend the August meeting were well rewarded by a fascinating account of two years spent in Peru, in the high plateau area, by Mrs Ian Blair of Blenheim, where she had accompanied her husband on a Department of Agriculture scheme. Her cheerful ability to adapt to a totally new

lifestyle, language, food, and her second child born while in Peru, was a lesson in fortitude to all of those present.

Two members, Trudy Williamson and Phyll Russell are in hospital and we wish them a speedy recovery. Eileen (Binnie) Taylor brought along two visitors to the meeting, both very active in their respective women's sections — Mrs Taylor, from Waiheke Island, and Mrs Reid from Ashburton. Our president, Sybil Phillips, welcomed them. The monthly raffle was won by Mrs Shorty Wilkins, to the delight of all.

A new member enrolled was Mrs Josie Leighton.

In last month's report I omitted to include Petal Summers name among those who volunteered to assist with welfare visiting. My apologies to our busy committee member and sales table officer.

Our entertainment group are starting to think about ideas for the Christmas party, so with that happy thought we leave this month's contribution.

JOAN M. TAYLOR.

Young Mary, all naive and starry-eyed, was taken aside by her best friend. "Mary," said the friend, "I know you are all excited about becoming engaged and want everybody to see your engagement ring, but . . . well, really, that ring! Let's face it, your fiancée didn't entirely let his head go when he bought it, did he?"

"It must be a good one," replied Mary, "he told me he bought it from a well-known millionaire."

"Oh, really," said the friend. "Who was that?"

"He said it was a Mr Woolworth."

TREASURER'S NEWSLETTER

At a recent meeting of the executive it was decided to advise the membership generally, of the financial state of the association.

The alarming escalation of all costs related to the running of the association and club is causing the executive and administration much concern. It seems that the liquor trade is one which comes in for special attention, and being our main source of income has a great bearing on our prosperity. Even now a further increase in charges is being negotiated by the trade.

Other areas where we have been severely hit this year are: Rates, postages, lighting and heating, telephones, wages and salaries and of course the cost of prizes for our special efforts.

As you are aware, special efforts and house have been a traditional source of revenue which has made many things possible. However, although income from these sources remains at about the same level, increased costs and inflation has reduced the value of the end result.

We started the year with a cash surplus in the accounts of about \$12,000; however, this had already been committed for alterations to the clubrooms. Current cash flow (from all sources) shows that expenditure is gobbling up income as it is received, and it seems that this year we will just about break even.

It is clear that a close watch must be kept on expenditure in all forms. We have built up a good image with the people over the years and I am sure that we will not lose friends by

concentrating on our own future and having a critical look at all approaches for financial assistance in the immediate future. In this respect we must set an example with our internal affairs.

It is clear that something must be done now to protect our future, tomorrow will be too late.

Our financial reserves are not high, age is now catching up with those who have supported our association, and there is a need to give aid and comfort to a growing number of ex-service people. If our reserves are allowed to run down then it must be for this consideration alone.

Any required alteration/improvement to the clubrooms must be financed out of income, and where is this income to come from? Increased subscriptions would help a little (our present sub is ridiculously low compared with other associations with similar facilities), but this would hit those older members who do not avail themselves of clubhouse privileges. The administration can no longer absorb increasing costs — they have done well to hold bar and other charges to today's level. Liquor prices to members must rise as the charges to the association (all charges, liquor, power, etc.) do.

Perhaps the alternative to this is to give some thought to widening our membership with the resultant increase in revenue. In this regard some interesting figures have been estimated (in the case of Marlborough RSA the figures are probably conservative). Membership 1979 — 1400; 1985 — 930, 1990 — 630 (average age 72).

To this end your executive and indeed the Dominion executive would like your thinking and here is a simple questionnaire. Please complete and hand in to office as soon as possible.

Continued on Page 29

NEW MEMBERS

32269	J. RAISTRICK
L83063	B. W. W. JARVIS
1921949	J. S. WILKS
724674	W. H. HUCKE
604283	A. W. JONES

The new secretary was a stunning girl. Face, figure, personality — she had the lot. The office wolf was naturally interested. For days he studied the girl, planning his approach, estimating her reaction. She went on with her work as if unaware of his scrutiny. But when he did make his play the exchange was as brief as it was definite. "You," he said, "are one in a million." "I know," she said, "so are your chances."

When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding, they were asked to what they attributed their 50 years of married life. Mr Ford replied: "I use the same formula as I do in making cars . . . just stick to the same model."

MARLBOROUGH R.S.A.

Where do we go from here?

Question One:

Do you believe that our association membership should be widened.

YES

NO

If your answer is "Yes" what sort of subscription should we apply?

\$.....

Question Two:

If it is decided that membership of the association should be widened and the required approval of the NZRSA is granted, what groups of personnel do you consider should be admitted? Please tick alongside the group or groups listed below:

- 1 WIVES
HUSBANDS
WIDOWS
WIDOWERS
of returned personnel.
- 2 SONS & DAUGHTERS (and their spouses) of returned personnel.
- 3 SERVICE OR EX-SERVICE personnel.
- 4 Uniformed services, e.g., POLICE
FIRE SERVICE, AMBULANCE
DRIVERS, etc.
- 5 Reputable citizens who have given service or who have the potential to give "service" to the RSA.
- 6 Any others not listed you may consider could be admitted, please list here:

.....

.....

.....

Have you any suggestions (or comments) for the future of Marlborough RSA and/or NZRSA generally? If so, please send in a letter with your suggestions.

Going ape

Two English gentlemen of the old school were discussing old acquaintances one evening in their London Club.

"What," asked one, "ever became of old Chumley?"

"Why didn't you hear? Chumley went to Africa on a game hunt, and by Jove, the chap took up with an ape!"

"An ape? Is the old boy queer?"

"No! It was a female ape!"

A healthy looking physical-education instructor was having a soft drink in a hotel when a devastating brunette approached and made a familiar proposition.

"No thank you," he said politely. "This might sound strange to you, but I'm keeping myself pure until I meet the girl I love".

"That must be very difficult", the girl sympathised.

"I don't mind", he said, "but it has my wife pretty upset".

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The first person to correctly name the persons in the photographs below and hands it in to the Secretary/Manager will receive a FREE JUG OF BEER!



1



2



3



4

IN TOWN FOR THE DAY?
Try lunch at the RSA — 12 noon to 1.30pm
Monday to Friday.



5



6



7



8

A man walking down the street met a minister, who berated him: "Seven children in seven years! Don't you think you should slow down?"

The man agreed and they moved on. They met again in the same street a year later.

"Now it's eight children in eight years," said the minister. "You should hang yourself."

"I tried that," came the reply. "I found a big tree, threw a rope over the branch, put the noose around my neck and was just about to jump off a box when I thought I might be hanging an innocent man."

"Daughter," said the mother. "Didn't I tell you not to let men come to your apartment? You know things like that worry me."

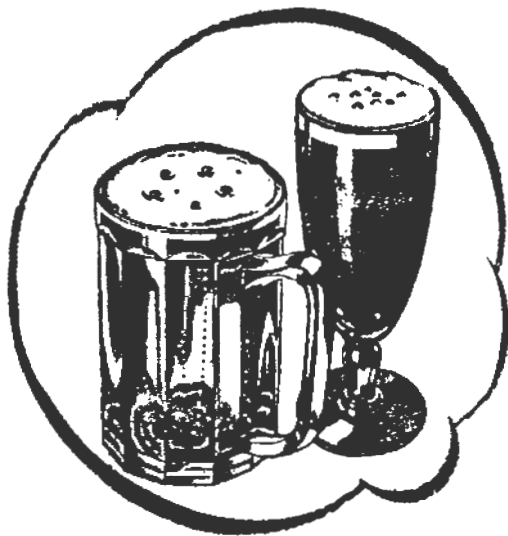
The girl laughed. "It's all right, mother," she said. "I went to his apartment. Now let his mother worry."

★ ★ ★

DRINK AND ENJOY 

*"Drink because you are happy,
Never because you are miserable."*

G. K. Chesterton.



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TODAY'S GREAT BEER

torrid summer temperatures made the Italian garrisons at Kufra and elsewhere seem perfectly secure against attack.

The New Zealanders rapidly adapted themselves to this fantastic region of dunes. On the first day the trucks floundered hopelessly, axle deep in almost liquid sand. Once or twice the drivers were confused by the blinding yellow glare and crashed their trucks over the brink of a mighty dune. Some of them rolled over and over for a hundred feet without coming to harm. Next day a run of more than 100 miles was made with hardly a mishap. Experience soon taught the drivers to distinguish firm sand from soft by faint differences in surface shape and colour. But they had still to know the hardship of a desert sandstorm at its worst, the sting of fine pebbles travelling at thirty or forty miles an hour when the temperature was 130 degrees in the shade.

In this way the motorised force entered the level gravel plain of the inner desert which extends without interruption for hundreds of miles. The patrols then separated, each one to carry out a previously arranged plan of reconnaissance. Nothing more was heard of them at General Headquarters, Middle East, and as a result of a garbled wireless message they were given up for lost. Then, after an absence of a month, there appeared in Cairo three bands of bearded, unwashed but exultant young men with a batch of Italian prisoners and several bags of captured documents. One patrol under Captain Mitford had examined all the northern roads leading to Kufra and had penetrated 350 miles into Libya. They captured four trucks, 2500 gallons of benzine, and medical supplies, as well as the official mail for Kufra and Uweinat with details of enemy dispositions in the inner desert. A letter from the commanding officer at Jalo described fully the number of troops and armaments down to 'two pistols, one of which is broken.'

Captain Clayton led another patrol south-west of Kufra along an ancient caravan route past Sarra well. As they went, they searched for suitable landing grounds for aircraft and mapped the country. Continuing southwards, they reached Tekro in French Equatorial Africa. At first the

soldiers guarding this Free French outpost mistook the approaching force for Italians and prepared for defence. The mistake was soon made good and Captain Clayton's patrol returned to meet another party, under Captain Steele, at Uweinat. Uweinat is a high island of rock in the Libyan plain. It is riddled with natural caverns where stores and vehicles could easily be concealed, and has suitable landing grounds very close to its base. As there are no natural barriers between it and the Nile valley, 400 miles distant, nor between it and Kufra, Uweinat is of real military importance. Here Captain Steele had found and destroyed a large dump of petrol and bombs and burned an unguarded enemy bomber.

A second expedition set off towards the end of October. Again the patrols separated, one being detailed to lay mines south of Kufra. When this was done, it picked up the Italian lorries captured and hidden the previous month, and drove them back to Cairo. Captain Clayton's patrol crossed the Libyan sand sea and mined the road between Jalo and Jedabya. They then laid mines in the road which crossed the basin of the Aujila oasis. As they neared the Italian fort there, a native soldier came running over a ridge. Mistaking the party for that of an Italian colonel, he saluted—and was taken prisoner. Seven direct hits into the mud walls of the fort were sufficient to send the astonished garrison scuttling off to a nearby native village. The patrol then removed the armaments, disappeared into the desert, and headed for Cairo.

These expeditions made it clear that the Italians were planning no offensive towards the south. All possible outlets from Uweinat to the south-east and the Sudan had been investigated and no evidence of enemy ground patrols had been discovered. Arabs south of Uweinat treated even the suggestion of enemy reconnaissance with contempt. Once these facts were established, the LRDG widened the scope of their operations. They scattered anti-Fascist pamphlets, written in Arabic, over desert roadways, and one patrol, led by Captain Mitford, made a daring attack on Ain Dua near the mountain fastness of Uweinat.

The weather was becoming extremely

cold, and early morning and late afternoon travelling was avoided when Captain Mitford's patrol set out, towards the end of November. They had reached a point on the open plain south-west of Karkur Murr when they were attacked from the air. Bombs were dropped forty yards to the left of the leading truck and the patrol immediately scattered over a wide area. Two more aircraft joined in the attack, which lasted for sixty-five minutes. The planes first attacked at 1000 feet, but as fairly heavy small arms fire was brought to bear by all the trucks, they circled up to at least 5000 feet where they were out of range. The salvos of bombs were easily avoided by wide dispersal and by swerving the trucks at right angles to the planes' line of flight. Over 300 small-calibre bombs were dropped, thirty-two of which were directed at one vehicle. Not a truck nor a man received a scratch.

After the last plane had left, the patrol continued west. It was assumed the enemy would think they had sustained casualties and would return east. An excellent hiding place was found in some rocks near Ain Dua; here the trucks were camouflaged and

the men remained concealed for a day while a party on foot made a reconnaissance of the approaches to this stronghold. An Italian plane flew over without searching the area or noticing the raiding party.

As the patrol approached Ain Dua at sunrise next day, there appeared to be no sign of life there. They stopped at 800 yards and fired one round from a Bofors gun, a light, quick-firing weapon. This brought an immediate reply of rifle and intermittent machine-gun fire from behind the rocks and stone walls. As the enemy position appeared to be too strong for frontal attack over the open plain, a troop consisting of three trucks and eighty men commanded by Lieutenant J. H. Sutherland, a New Zealand cavalry officer, was ordered to attack the enemy's left flank while the remainder of the patrol gave covering fire from the front. The garrison was estimated to be thirty men with three machine guns, very strongly entrenched in prepared positions among rocks and enormous boulders. The troop worked its way forward among these rocks under fire and drove the garrison out of its normal position and up the neighbouring mountain.

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side into further prepared positions. In this sharp action the enemy suffered three casualties, including at least one killed.

It was expected that the reconnaissance aircraft would reappear, so the action was called off and the patrol hid among rocks a mile or two away. Two bombers flew over without seeing them, and half-an-hour later a reconnaissance plane circled twice before it flew away to the north-east. As it was not certain whether the patrol had been seen, it remained under cover for several hours.

Although there seemed little likelihood of successfully assailing such a strong position, a second attack was launched. Lieutenant Sutherland's troop moved stealthily over the ground they knew and the remainder of the patrol wormed round the right flank while one truck gave covering fire. The troop inflicted further casualties on the enemy. Sutherland and one man reached the edge of the ground-level fortifications and caused damage with grenades. Two of the three machine guns were silenced. A New Zealand cavalry trooper, manoeuvring his own machine gun into a favourable position, silenced one of them.

The second was probably put out of action by a shell from a quick-firing gun. Owing to the almost impassable rock formation, the remainder of the patrol were unable to get close enough to engage the enemy. Sutherland had been ordered to avoid heavy casualties; and the garrison was so well placed and defended the position so stoutly that its capture was impossible without them. Six of the enemy had been killed and many others wounded. The patrol had suffered no loss; and as darkness fell, it reassembled in full view of Ain Dua, retired due south for some distance, wheeled east, and camped in some foothills. The return journey to Cairo was made via the Nile valley.

By December the marauding activities of the LRDG had achieved their desired effect. Communications between Italian outposts in the desert were disorganised, garrisons were heavily reinforced, and daily air patrols were instituted. More important still, the enemy's attention had been drawn from the coastal area. Then began the second phase of this remarkable subsidiary campaign—a series of raids on the garrisons of the Fezzan in south-western Libya.



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crossword puzzle 11

ACROSS

1. Store
5. Greek letter
8. Prisoners of war (abbr.)
12. Solicitude
13. Very warm
14. Discharge
15. Winglike
16. Monkey
17. Italian city
18. English admiral
20. Skillful workman
22. One time
24. Chemical symbol
25. Mythical king of Britain
28. Hamlet's home
33. Pronoun
34. Inlet
35. Promise
36. Act of treachery
39. Liver paste
40. Article
41. Mix
43. North European sea
47. Appeared
51. Redact

52. Money of account

54. Drill
55. Nobleman
56. Tree
57. Scandinavian name
58. Liberate
59. Lixivium
60. Wet

DOWN

1. Scrutinize
2. Healthy
3. Verbal
4. Human being
5. Court of equity

6. Skip
7. Detail
8. Digestive aid
9. Neglect
10. Sagacious
11. Heavenly body
19. Upon
21. Son-in-law of Mohammed
23. Masculine name
25. — Hope
26. Repent
27. Skill
29. — City (2 wds.)

30. Eggs
31. Decay
32. Female sheep
37. Disconcert
38. Blackbird
39. Investigated
42. Hawaiian hawk
43. Meat
44. Jewish month
45. Italian coins
46. Composed
48. Spartan army division
49. Emerald Isle
50. Adorn
53. Beam

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(Answer on Page 25)

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