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Editorial . . .

It is good to see the formation of sub-committees comprising Executive and floor members, tasked with investigating and reporting on matters of Association concern. Adequate insurance is a must these days and ours has become somewhat out-dated and way below the cover considered prudent. R.S.A. revised Model Rules have been received and they are to receive thorough study. Most important of all, probably, is the need to plan for our future and I am sure no one will envy the task of this sub-committee. A step in the right direction is the inclusion of a member of the Ex-Malayan Association — his viewpoint should give plenty of food for thought, and should help bring about balanced recommendations.

The annual election procedure is also to be looked at in an endeavour to reduce the cost of the present methods: 433 ballot papers were returned from 1482 members. The cost of printing, stationery and postage, etc., amounted to \$743.37 or \$1.72 per head of those who bothered to vote. Certainly not good economics with costs continuing to spiral.

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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

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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 the last monthly meeting of the management committee, it was decided to form two sub-committees. One to revise our insurances and one to study rules, membership and the future of the RSA.

At present our insurances are carried by several different companies, some policies are many years old and inadequate by today's standards. This sub-committee is chaired by Vern Anderson, who may co-opt any member he wishes to serve on this committee with the proviso that at least one member is to be on the present executive.

The other sub-committee is chaired by Alex Fry and will consist of Vern Anderson and one ex-Malaysian member, plus whoever else Alex would like. Alex may also ask any member he thinks has something worthwhile to offer to discuss this with his committee.

The new NZRSA model rules are to hand and these will also be studied. I will be on both these committees ex-officio.

Alex has already spent some considerable time studying submissions made by members. It is gratifying to see many members sufficiently interested to make returns.

The executive is concerned at the high cost per vote returned at our annual election, approximately \$2 per paper and with rising costs could reach \$3.50 to \$4 next year. No doubt rules covering our election will be closely looked at by Alex and his committee with the view to reducing costs.

The need for tight security was high-lighted recently when a young lad leapt the office counter and took \$120 from the cash box while the secretary/manager was in his office next door. With a lot of young chaps on drugs they are prepared to take all sorts of risks to get some cash to purchase them. Prompt action by the police resulted in most of the money being recovered within two hours.

In the interests of security the main doors are not unlocked in the morning until the cash has been counted and locked away, and the side doors are locked at 9pm. Members leaving after 9pm are requested to leave by the front doors and not as was done recently, by wrenching and damaging the side doors when finding them locked.

Members will no doubt be pleased to know that we are climbing out of the red with our trading account, and our trading deficit for September is now \$5561.82, compared with \$7305 in August. Our three-monthly survey showed that we followed the trend of recent years, with the last three months showing the smallest profit of the year. This year was slightly better than last.

Nola and I were invited to present the prizes won at the RSA golf tournament held at Rarangi recently. My congratulations to Duncan Robertson and his committee for running such a successful tournament and function afterwards. The winner of the RSA Trophy was Don Hale (decided by lot) and the runner-up Herb Watson. These two will represent Marlborough RSA at the NZRSA national championships to be held in Nelson next year.

I would like to remind members that the Christmas draw will be closing on December 1.

KEN YEALANDS

This is the saga of a young sailor who went to sea for the adventure to be found. One day, during a tropical storm, the lad was washed overboard and sank down to the depths of the ocean.

Imagine his surprise when he was caught in mid-ocean by a lovely mermaid!

"you can live in the sea if you wish it," she said to the tar. "And if you will stay with me for one year I promise to deposit you back on the shores of your native land."

Well, this was the best offer the lad had had all day! Naturally he accepted it, and for a full year he lived beneath the waves with the beautiful young mermaid.

A year later, true to her promise, the young mermaid took the sailor back to his country and put him ashore.

Naturally there was great joy in his family that he was alive and well. A feast was held and the whole town invited. Food was piled high, liquor flowed.

There was but one jarring note to the proceedings. As the young man opened a can of sardines, they all leapt out of the can yelling: "Hello pop, long time no sea!"

* * *

Ex-Malayan Association News

Hello there! Ex-curry munchers and tiger drinkers.

Headlines for this month are of course the hangi and barn dance to be held on November 24 at the Moutere Rugby Football Club's pavilion, Spring Creek.

Now, let's make this do a cracker, so bring mum and the kids, a friend and their tribe as well, as there's bound to be ice-creams and lollies thrown about with gay abandon. Also, with the Char Wallahs that we've got lined up, the kai will be out of this world.

The band (our own ULU BASHAS) is reputed to be the best in Marlborough and those of you who know Alan Swan (Swannie) will realise that we've got a fantastic M.C. These guys really enjoy their work and this of course rubs off on to everyone else, so don't miss a fun show, but please let us know how many will be coming so that the catering side of things can be arranged without any foul-ups.

Put a ring around the 24th now, and how about wearing some of that Noggi gear that you have had stashed away in the old tin trunk all these years.

See you there.

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The first man killed in action was on the Suez Canal when the Turks attacked. His name was Private Ham, 12th Nelson Regt. The Turks lost about 600 killed and only one managed to cross the canal. The navy waited until they filled their barges and then the picket boats with the big brass funnels arrived on the scene and open fire at point-blank range with a Gatling gun — what a mess! One barge is in the Christchurch Museum and looks more like a sieve than a boat. How many got back to Turkey I don't know. And how they got their boats across the desert is anybody's guess.

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REPORT ON WAIHI R.S.A. WOMEN'S SECTION SEMINAR HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1979

BY MRS M. I. LATHAM, CHAIRWOMAN OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S AND
WOMEN'S SECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION: Mr O. Morgan, Mayor of Waihi, opened the seminar and Mr Arnold Clements, District President, Waikato-King Country-Bay of Plenty, and Mr Theo Orr, president, Waihi RSA, addressed the ladies. Mrs Kathie Dike, president of Waihi RSA Women's Section, was in the chair.

Delegates from 23 women's sections throughout the district attended, representing more than 2000 women. Also in attendance were representatives of the women's section at Ngatea, who were favourably impressed with the proceedings at the seminar and have since expressed a desire to transfer to the Waikato-King Country-Bay of Plenty district.

WELFARE: Women's sections carried out home and hospital visiting and other local duties. Most were interested in Sunningdale. Some sections who were not already doing so said they would be happy to work more closely with parents RSAs in this field.

POPPY AND ANZAC DAY: All said this was their busiest day. The women's sections provide rum and coffee, Anzac breakfasts, lunches and catered for visitors. Poppy Day sales, both on the street and house-to-house were organised as well as the preparation of poppies in readiness for Anzac Day and duties carried out by the ladies included the making and placing of posies on servicemen's and women's graves.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: These varied according to parent RSA needs and were sometimes governed by the numbers of women's section members. Catering for after-funeral teas and lunches had been widely undertaken, also meals and refreshments at RSA sporting tournaments. The ladies successfully organised Christmas functions for widows and veterans. The women's sections also take part on an interchange basis with street collectors for other community organisations.

REMITs: There were three remits placed before the seminar for discussion; the first in regard to seminar notices and it was decided that this matter was merely a matter of communication and it was resolved that a better means of contact should be sought.

A lively discussion arose from Remit 2 which sought to have a women's section conference to be held solely for women's sections — not necessarily yearly — but maybe every second year. This drew many speakers and delegates remarked that with the formation of the Ex-Servicewomen's and Women's Section Sub-committee of D.E.C. the women's views and opinions would be heard. The general feeling was that all too often previous deliberations from seminars had gone as far as someone's desk and stopped there.

A resolution to the effect that the seminar recommended that a women's section conference be held in Wellington every two years was carried with enthusiasm.

There was also a remit suggesting that a representative from a regional seminar be appointed to the National Council of Women. However, it was explained that only incorporated bodies may join the top echelon of National Council of Women and women's sections are not incorporated either singly or as a whole. The remit therefore was amended to read as follows:

"That women's sections be encouraged to apply for membership of their local branch of the National Council of Women."

COMMENTS: Delegates expressed their pleasure at the attendance of Mr Johnston and myself. Mr Johnston spoke to delegates after lunch (he did not attend the working proceedings during the morning). I attended all day and found the seminar a very fulfilling experience. It had been very well organised by an energetic committee. Raffles had been run to raise funds for many months prior to the seminar

to assist financially and aid in making the venture a success. The next seminar will be held at Taumarunui and the suggestion was made that those RSA districts which do not hold seminars would find them well worthwhile.

CONCLUSION: I myself feel that the seminar was a success both from the point of view of my getting to know people and of introducing to the sections attending the chairman of the sub-committee which is to serve them. Valuable also were the personal approaches, comments and questions which cropped up, particularly on membership and rules.

THANKS: It was the Waihi RSA Women's Section's 40th birthday and we were entertained with a very good musical programme after an excellent luncheon.

Thanks to Mrs Dike and her committee for their hospitality and warm friendliness and to Mr and Mrs Orr for their kindness in taking me up in their car to Waihi and back to Tauranga.

I am most grateful to the D.E.C. for affording me this wonderful opportunity to discharge my duty to ex-servicewomen and women's section members.

A minister was very fond of cherry brandy and one of his elders thought he would play a joke on him.

"I'll give you a bottle of cherry brandy," he said, "if you promise to acknowledge it in the Church Magazine."

The minister undertook to do this, and in due course a paragraph appeared in the magazine thanking the donor "for his gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given."

* * *

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

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!

WISEWAY I.G.A.

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

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OPEN SEVEN DAYS

Shrapnel Kate

On Tuesday, August 8, 1916, Trooper L/ Cpl Jas. F. Rudd was seriously wounded in the head by shrapnel at the Battle of El-Romani (he had earlier been wounded at Gallipoli in August 1915). After four miles on horseback he was strapped on the back of a camel for a 12½-hour journey to the safety (?) of hospital at Port Said.

After such an ordeal, one could hardly expect anyone to have a sense of humour, but after reading this letter written within two months of his ordeal, Jim Rudd, I'm sure you must agree, must have been quite a soldier.

DEDICATED TO SHRAPNEL KATE — By one of the Anzac Division, J. F. R.

I've been where shrapnel flies around,
And flattens men upon the ground.
And makes some run for all they're worth,
To get behind a clump of earth.
When I got hit and came down here,
I thought, no danger now to fear.
But sitting in my bed one day,
A lighthouse man did say,
"Look out for shrapnel, here she's coming,
Cannot you hear the hum she's humming?
Take cover now, or you'll be copped."
So into hiding, quick, I popped,
But oh, too slow.
"Oh Corporal Rudd, sweep up the floor,
The lockers scrub, empty the ash,
The trays wash too.
So, to get done, around I flew,
But oh! my hopes, another shell.
Burst at my feet, blew me to --- well!
Tale up these plates and clean them please,
And see and take off all that grease;
Rub up the kiwis and make them shine,
See that the beds are all in line.
Slippers and boots in neat array,
You'll do this Corporal, every day.
Stout bottles too, must be collected,
Lockers for dirt must be inspected.
See that the bed patients get their custard,
But with this last order, my brain busted.

I laid me down and said at length,
"Oh sister dear, I've not the strength.
I'm war worn weary, wounded too,
Don't give me so much work to do.
Give these my neighbours something please,
They're hiding back there on their knees."
"Oh yes, you boys," she starts to sing,
"The dinner things you'll start to bring,
And carry round dinners to bed,
"You'll surely see the chaps are fed."
And day by day these things go on,
It's Shrapnel Kate's only song.
Do this, do that, do everything,
God bless the country, bless the King.
God bless and keep us everyone,
God bless my soul, I'm done, I'm done.

EXPORT DRIVE

An enterprising New Zealand firm has exported some 250 septic tanks to Ireland. We understand that as soon as the I.R.A. have learned to drive them, they intend invading England!

* * *

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THIS MONTHS PERSONALITY



J. H. TAYLOR

JAMES HENRY TAYLOR was born on April 12, 1913, at Picton, where he has spent much of his life with the exception of six years at Huntly and three and a half years with the 2nd NZEF. He was educated at the Picton Borough School and St Joseph's, and his secondary education was done by correspondence course through the Post Office Correspondence School.

Jim spent six months as an apprentice electrician in 1927, but times were becoming hard and his boss moved north.

He was 14th on the waiting list for a job at the Post Office, but managed to get a position on trial in 1928 and successfully held the job, receiving £46 per year.

He was a so-called "depression junior" and by the time he got married in 1926 his salary had increased substantially to £107 per year. The then-Government brought in the married man's minimum salary, thus giving him an all-time high of £209/15/- a year.

He served in the Middle East and Italy for three years and returned to N.Z. on 30/9/45. He was a corporal in R.N.Z. Corps of Signals, serving with Main Div. Tac HQ, 5 Brigade, 9 Brigade, 28 Assault Squadron Engineers, and spent considerable time on reconnaissance for Main Div and 9 Brigade.

He also served with 56 Black Cat British Division for a short period in Tunisia and 585 Field Park Scottish Engineers on the Adriatic Coast, Italy, for a period of approximately three weeks.

Jim was one of those Sigs who received the surrender message of Rommel's army in North Africa. It was signed by General Messe and after checking over it was handed to Captain Shirley, who in turn passed the message on to General Freyberg. Incidentally, this message was received on a No. 9 radio set and the link was maintained until being relieved by a more powerful set, the 299. The war in North Africa ended a few hours later.

Jim joined the Marlborough RSA (Picton branch), of which he is still a financial member, in February, 1946. He was chairman of the



clubhouse committee from 1947-60, chairman billiards committee 1949-72, and served on the social committee for a period of six years.

A member of the cemetery works committee from 1950-72, member of the executive committee (Picton branch) since 1948, served a three-year term as secretary-treasurer, and was Picton branch president from 1966-69 and again from 1977-79.

Jim is currently serving on the executive committee as immediate past-president and for the last five years has been the assistant secretary. He was the first chairman of the club committee and the charter committee and is still serving on the club committee and the finance and charter committees. He is secretary-treasurer of the RSA pool club, which was formed about six months ago.

Jim spends up to 10 hours per day dealing with club matters, including cash, purchasing of stock, cleaning of tanks, etc., plus dispensing liquid refreshments, pies and what-have-you, and acts as the bar manager.

From 1946-70 he ran the clubhouse practically every Saturday night between the hours of 7pm and 11pm and between 1960 and 1966, the same applied to Wednesday nights also.

Jim was branch delegate to Marlborough RSA executive for a period of 12 years, a member of Picton Patriotic Welfare Committee for 11 years, being secretary for the past six years.

He has taken a very active interest in RSA affairs and was largely responsible for membership of the Picton branch being built up from 135 members to over 240. He was awarded life membership of Marlborough RSA in 1966, the Certificate of Merit and the Gold Star Badge in 1973.

Prior to his retirement in 1971, he was a senior clerk with the N.Z. Post Office and relieved sub-office postmasters within this district on numerous occasions. He was a member of the Post Office Welfare Committee for 21 years, served some 10 years as Welfare Consulting Officer and was for 15 years a member of the Post Office District Advisory Committee.

Jim's late wife, Ngaire, was an active member of the RSA Women's Section, having served a short term as president of that section. Jim and Ngaire were also foster parents to a considerable number of children for varying

period of 3-6 months up to two years.

Jim ("Mr RSA") always finds time to welcome visitors and have a friendly chat with them. A great RSA man still doing a terrific job for the Picton RSA.

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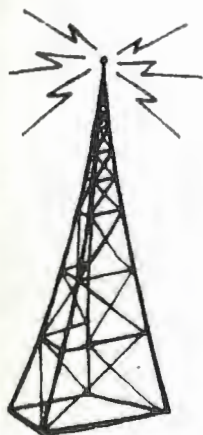
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Picton R.S.A. News

With the billiard room extension now open and being used, members have a much improved facility at their disposal. There remains quite a lot to be done yet however, including the plumbing in the ladies room, preparing and setting up of darts boards and the final stretching and joining of the carpet. The existing lounge bar is to be face-lifted with repapering and painting.

At this stage, my purely personal calculated guess would put the opening date as the last Saturday in January, which would coincide with the third anniversary of the opening as a chartered club.

However, the executive have not yet finalised a date — so don't make any firm commitments.

November will be a busy month for our club with a social on the 10th, a visit from the Lower Hutt Wanderers Darts Club on the 17th and the following weekend our friends from Westport arrive for their biennial visit, for what we hope, will be a fine weekend, stacked with traditional entertainment.

Many thanks to Les Evans who has made his launch E-Jay and his services available for the Westport members who enjoy a fishing trip.

Les's courtesy and hospitality will ensure our visitors have a very enjoyable day. High water will be 1pm so we have every chance of having the fishing party and our saxophonist back for the social on Saturday night, the 24th.

Business arising from executive and clubhouse meetings in October included:

Executive: Permission granted to Waikawa Bay Play Centre for them to hold their Xmas party in the social room. Because of their willingness to help the RSA whenever possible, it was agreed to waive the usual donation they offer.

The president advised members that some debentures have been surrendered in favour of the RSA and expressed appreciation and gratitude.

A suitable cupboard is to be provided to hold the billiard table accessories.

A notice is to be displayed stating: "No gambling on these premises."

The top four carparks are to be reserved for the president, secretary, bar manager and duty barman.

Clubhouse: The members stood as a mark of respect for the wife of N. Henderson, the late Mrs Lurna Henderson.

When playing snooker the price per player has been set at 10c. Pool and up to a score of 50 in billiards remains at 5c per player.

When a visiting pool team is here, both tables are to be available for the tournament.

Our stalwart welfare committee member Mr Johnny Murrell has lent me an album of Mr J. F. Rudd, from which I will extract an interesting article or two for Crossfire. Many thanks to you both.

A mid-winter visitor worthy of mention was Chief Petty Officer Fred Whyte from HMAS Hobart. Fred, who comes from Picton, Australia, travelled from Nelson where his ship was on a goodwill visit, and nostalgic perhaps, but Fred decided he'd like to see his home-town's namesake, and by all accounts was highly impressed.

Fortunately for Fred, Danny and Allan took him under their wing and showed him around our fair province and Sounds. The club's thanks to them for entertaining our visitor.

It must have been a good day. When I met up with them, Fred was all set to hop over the hill to "Clifford Bay" to get the ferry round to

Nelson! To show his appreciation, on his return to his home port of Sydney, Fred sent the RSA a plaque of HMAS Hobart.

We hope you get a copy of this Crossfire Fred, and that we may see you again sometime with a few mates. regards from all at picton and a special "Hi" from Danny and Allan.

Also many thanks to Danny Linton, who has donated a polaroid instant camera, for use for the Crossfire. That's a gift that is really appreciated and will, I hope, get enough use to justify the thought of the presentation. Thank you, Danny.

Picton Women's Section Notes

For our October meeting we had invited RSA members to hear our guest speaker, Paul Braddock, give an illustrated talk on his two visits to the Antarctic.

This intensely interesting speaker and his excellent slides held us all at peak attention and certainly changed our previous ideas about the Antarctic being "all icebergs and snow." Those of our menfolk who attended were very impressed.

Two new members were recorded: Mesdames Findlater and Morris.

Margaret Frisken was the popular raffle winner for the month. Trixie McCall agreed to prepare an entry for the Rose Show on November 15 — Trixie's floral settings are always a delight to see.

Our sympathy is extended to Norm Henderson in his recent loss.

The various Christmas parties are coming closer among the women's sections and all are busy rehearsing.

November 13 will be our last meeting until February, as we go into recess for the bowling, bottling and very busy December-January season.

JOAN M. TAYLOR

First day at school the teacher explained to her young pupils that if they wished to go to the rest room they should raise two fingers. Billy, looking very puzzled, asked the teacher: "How is that going to stop it?"

★ ★ ★

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To be one of a New Zealand delegation of five at the funeral service and representing all New Zealand servicemen and women was, to say the least, an honour never to be forgotten.

The New Zealand delegation's attendance at the Ceremonial Funeral was made possible by the offer of the Australian Prime Minister to the New Zealand Prime Minister of four seats on the special Vice-Regal RAAF flight to London on Saturday, September 6. The New Zealand Prime Minister's invitation to join the delegation was gladly accepted on behalf of all New Zealand ex-servicemen and women.

The N.Z. delegation was:—

The Hon. D. MacIntyre, M.P.

The Hon. R. J. Tizard, M.P.

Mr N. P. H. Jones, M.P.

Mr W. D. Leuchars, Dominion President, NZRSA.

Major-General B. N. Poananga, Chief of the General Staff, who was overseas at the time, joined the official delegation in London on September 5.

Throughout the night before the service crowds had gathered, quiet, orderly and contained. They slept on the pavements and saw the dawn break over Westminster and the rise of a brilliant sun which was to make the plumed helmets and veterans medals glitter as Lord Mountbatten's funeral procession moved slowly to muffled beats.

The cortege left the Queen's Chapel at St James' Palace at 10.50 with Lord Mountbatten's Gold Stick, Sword of Honour and Cocked Hat

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resting on top of the coffin.

Young servicemen from the United States, French Marines, the Indian Contingent, the Gurkhas, survivors of Lord Mountbatten's command HMS Kelly, Household Cavalry, Life Guards and Marines — they all marched.

Lord Mountbatten was a great-grandson of Queen Victoria and his links with European Royalty were reflected by the presence among the 1400 people in the Abbey of a score of Kings and Princes.

The majestic setting of Westminster Abbey, the simple black dresses of the Royal Family, the magnificent uniforms of the men, the careful tread of the Naval bearer party, the soaring voices of the choir, all these combined to form an emotional expression of gratitude for the Earl's life, and sorrow at his death.

So ended the memorable tribute, perfectly executed; the flight plan by the RAAF, and all those responsible for the military pageantry that only the British can command on such a sad occasion.

Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma — 1900-1979

**For many he will simply remain
THE LAST HERO.**

W. D. LEUCHARS,
Dominion President,
N.Z.R.S.A.

PERMA JUGS

All one-litre glass jugs are shortly to be replaced by "Perma" jugs, the new plastic jug introduced into hotels recently to reduce the number of serious injuries caused by fights using jugs as weapons. One of the major disadvantages of glass jugs is their short life expectancy — few survive three months. Current prices of

glassware, like everything else, have skyrocketed and we at present pay for:

1 litre glass jugs	\$2.70
1 pint glass jugs	\$2.06
500ml Handles	2.32
285ml Handles	1.50
5oz plain sided glasses	0.56
5oz St Louis glasses	0.60
5oz barrel glasses	0.80

The price of the new Perma jugs is \$2.85 — but the life expectancy is two years.

Some design features and points of interest concerning the polycarbonate jugs are:

The handles interlock and it is reported that (if your hand is big enough!) five jugs can easily be carried without slipping and spilling a drop.

They are shaped so as not to touch each other in a washing machine and a small drain hole in the rim ensures complete drainage of the bottom.

They stay cold longer. A glass jug and polycarbonate jug were each filled with ice and the polycarbonate jug took two hours longer for all the ice to suit.

During promotion, one of the new jugs was thrown out of a top floor window and only bounced. To underline their strength, a well-known rugby personality jumped up and down on a jug and could not break it.

There is a date stamp on the base and this enables a check on their age. Old, scratched jugs are bought back and recycled.

This jug is a New Zealand FIRST in the world.

Bad shot

"My timing is terrible," commented one park-bencher to another.

"What do you mean, George?"

"Now that the sexual revolution has arrived, I seem to have run out of ammunition."

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What Was Happening

30 Years Ago . . . ?

PRESENT: R. A. Mears (President), Messrs W. A. Hood, R. D. Wanden, A. Broadley, F. W. Horton, L. D. Waters, F. O. Delany, F. A. Harrison, G. H. Stace and secretary J. S. Bain.

APOLOGIES: H. A. J. Sowman, J. A. Bell, R. K. Harvey, A. D. Gibb, S. Waters and J. Thomson.

BRANCHES PRESENT: J. Sutherland (Picton), F. G. Butt (Seddon), L. A. Harper and F. V. H. Robinson (Renwicktown), A. A. Kitching (Rai Valley).

BUSINESS: It wasn't possible to hire a hall for the annual re-union so it was abandoned for the year 1949.

A request was received from the Homeservicemen's Assn. for permission for their members to use the RSA Club on Friday nights, agreed to. Request from Heritage that a member of the executive be appointed to their committee. Mr A. Broadley was appointed.

NZRSA advised that Messrs Mears and Brealey had been awarded the Certificate of Merit. The executive decided to protest as Mr Mears had been recommended for the Gold Star

Badge.

Rose Day collection arranged for November 3 and 4. Children's Xmas party to be held at Waterlea. List of names being compiled for the War Memorial.

and 25 years ago . . .

PRESENT: R. T. Scott (chairman), J. A. Bell, W. A. Hood, J. R. Naysmith, F. A. Harrison, F. R. Lightfoot, W. J. Perkins, R. C. S. Bush, R. D. Wanden, L. D. Waters, F. A. Delany, J. M. Walsh and P. G. Tizard (secretary).

BRANCHES: F. W. Parker (East Coast), N. Jellyman (Kaikoura), T. B. Madsen, C. B. Neilson and J. Sutherland (Picton), A. A. Kitching (Rai Valley), C. Harris (Awatere), P. L. Smith (Renwicktown).

BUSINESS: The president welcomed Mr Sutherland, president of the Picton sub-branch. Decided to ask Naval Relations Officer to advise the RSA when senior navalmen visit Blenheim. Meeting to be called to finalise Memorial Funds. Finance showed receipts of £857 and payments of £793 and a debit balance of £392.

Membership stood at 1563. Rose Day appeal netted £122. Resolved to buy £5 health stamps. Resolved to apply for off-sales licence.

FOR MEN'S SHOES

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Letter of thanks to Roy Thompson for presentation of flags. Building plan discussed — cost £25,000 to £30,000. Decided couldn't afford that. Modified plan explained by Mr Scott.

Blenheim Women's Section News

The guest speaker at the October section meeting was Mrs W. A. Evans, who spoke on behalf of the Save the Children Fund and explained the distribution of appeal moneys. Members generously supported their sales tables and raffles.

Mrs Wye kindly gave me permission to quote this little story published in their newsletter:

In Christchurch six years ago, two small girls, Ruth and Clare, approached the president of the S.C.F. with a donation of \$2. Their father had just died and this was money they had saved for his birthday present. Each year since they have contributed and their money is used towards a special sponsorship—that of a young crippled Austrian girl called Henta. The fact that Henta is crippled is significant, because Ruth, the younger of the sisters, is also crippled and spends most of her time in a wheelchair. The girls

correspond regularly and Ruth has learnt to knit and make garments for Henta — this is quite an achievement as one hand is very weak. Clare works very hard selling shop goods. It was a great highlight for these girls to speak with Princess Anne when she visited Christchurch earlier this year.

In this "Year of the Child" it is heartening to see children's compassion for children.

The Veterans' afternoon was again a popular day and everyone enjoyed musical items by Mr Allan Gardiner.

President Mrs Eva Kennington thanked everyone for their help in making these afternoons the success they are.

The festive season is fast approaching, so dates of our functions for members are:

Thursday, No. 22: Renwick womens section Xmas evening.

Tuesday, No. 27: Picton womens section Xmas evening.

Wednesday, Dec. 5: Blenheim womens section Xmas dinner.

Monday, Dec. 10: Veterans Xmas afternoon.

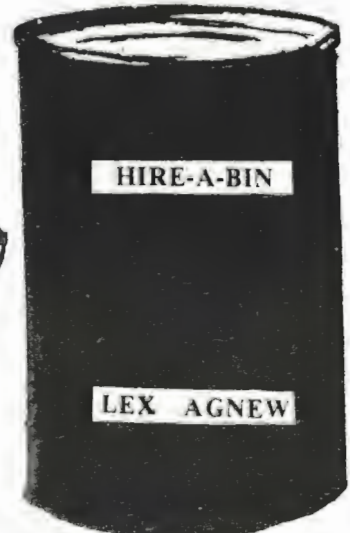
JO ALLAN

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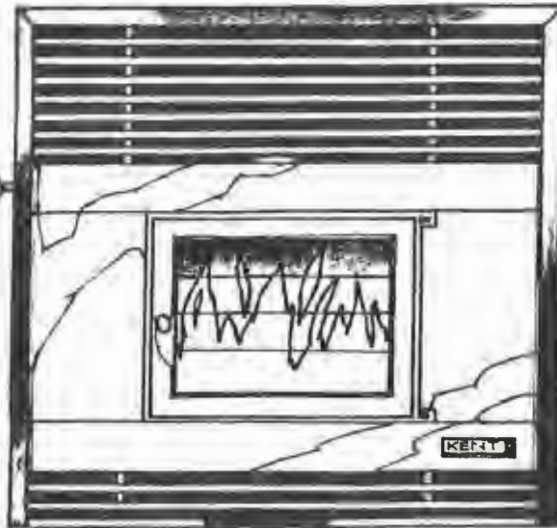
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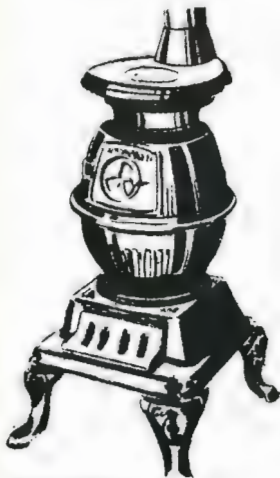
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What's On In Your Club?

NOVEMBER:

- 22 EXECUTIVE DINNER
- 25 MOTUEKA BOWLS VISIT

DECEMBER:

- 5 WOMEN'S SECTION XMAS PARTY
 - 7 POLICE AND BAND VISIT
 - 8 XMAS SOCIAL
 - 10 VETERANS' XMAS PARTY
 - 12 POOL CLUB SOCIAL
 - 13 CLUBHOUSE SOCIAL
 - 15 TURKEY STAKES
 - 15 XMAS DRAW
-

A. R. WEBBY CA

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FOR FRIENDLY S

LUBRICATION

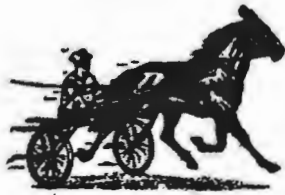


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TROTTING TIPS FROM "YOUNG CHARLES"

LOCAL PATRON: Looks like being a top two-year-old. Owned locally and by its breeding should develop into top pacer.

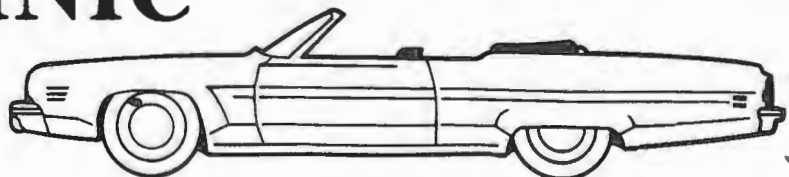
GAINSBOROUGH: This trotter is racing in the north and qualified stylishly. Should go through the maiden classes very quickly and worth following.

TAKE AIM: At long last, Peter Neal from the Rai Valley has bred a good one. This horse is worth following, especially if it goes to Wellington in the next two or three weeks. Another stylish qualifier.

DALE HANOVER: If the owners pay up for the Derby, this fellow will be worth following. Next month we'll give you a few to follow over the holiday period.

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MAINTENANCE

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER

This year the RSA social with a DIFFERENCE! Good supper and music as usual, BUT this year everyone brings a gift, value less than one dollar. The gifts are placed under the Xmas tree, then along comes Santa and hands out a present to everyone.

This is where you could get your own back, but never mind, what a lot of fun it could be swapping around (presents, of course).

The date: December 8.



NEW MEMBERS

E. B. FENWICK

PICTON R.S.A. ADDITIONS NEAR COMPLETION

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DUNEDIN R.S.A. TRUST FUND FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM
DUNEDIN "EVENING STAR"

Dated August 9, 1979.

Chatting with R.S.A. President Les Bills the other day, I was impressed with the emphasis he is placing on getting "service members" into the organisation. Service members are those people who for one reason or another, normally beyond their control, did not serve overseas in combat. They are the many men and women who served in peace-time or in rear echelon jobs. The most interesting aspect of our conversation was the fact that the RSA executive here has made a decision to form a trust fund for service members to allow it to extend welfare work to the non-returned people. As Les explained, much

of the money left to the RSA in the past is bequeathed with the specific instructions that it be used for the welfare of "returned" members, so it cannot be used any other way. But Dunedin RSA, with more than 400 service members throughout Otago, has the highest non-returned section of any RSA in the country.

Les tells me that there are places for five service members on the executive — just to prove that they are on exactly the same footing as other members. "No second-class citizens in our outfit," says Les. "We need the new blood and we are looking ahead."

Editor's Note: A sub-committee under the chairmanship of Alex Fry has been formed to make recommendations to the executive on extended membership. One point worthy of note was that an ex-Malaysian member must be one of those co-opted.

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Rest in peace

Rose went to the doctor complaining of a sore shoulder. The doctor examined her shoulder and couldn't find anything apparently wrong. She insisted that it was painful so the doctor said, "Well then, let's investigate this further. Perhaps you were exposed. What did you do last night?"

Rose told him that she had a date with her boy friend and they had gone riding in the country. The came to a cemetery and her boy friend persuaded her to walk into the cemetery and read some of the inscriptions on the tombstones.

"Well," said the doctor, "the chances are that it was chilly out there and you caught a muscular cold. That being the case, let me give you a more thorough examination. Please disrobe."

Rose complied with his request. Then the doctor got behind her, examining her shoulder more closely. After a few minutes he said, "There just doesn't seem to be anything wrong with your shoulder. Rose, but from here it looks like your buttocks have been dead since 1912."

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



WW1 Bits and Pieces

Do you know that the first man killed in the N.Z. Forces did so at the hands of his own mates. It happened crossing the equator when Father Neptune came aboard. The soldier was tipped over backwards into a tub of water and broke his neck. I think he belonged to the Otago Ambulance Corps, not sure of his name, but think it was Brodie.

* * *
Have you heard this one?

A mate of mine, badly wounded, was invalided home in 1916. Sitting on a seat at Caroline Bay, Timaru, a woman said to him: "You should be overseas helping your mates." He looked at her for awhile and said: "Lady, if we had as much powder over on Gallipoli as you have on your face, the war would have been over by now, so keep your white feather."

* * *
"Were you hit on the Peninsula?" asked an elderly lady of a soldier on crutches in Trafalgar Square.

"No," he answered, "I got it further down."

"Whereabouts?" she persisted.

"Well," said the soldier, "I'll put it this way. If you were hit where I was hit, you would not have been hit at all."

Towards the end of the war N.Z. was getting hard-up filling up reinforcements. Well, someone had a brainwave and had a large sign made and put up on the Drill Shed roof in Timaru. It read: "Wake up, your King and Country need you."

It did not stay there long as some persons shifted it to the cemetery. Next thing a reward of £50 was being offered to anyone who could provide information as to who the culprits were.

* * *
We had nick-names for different reinforcements, such as 5th Fighting 5th; seedless raisins (no children) Dinks; Lord Liverpool's Own — Bill Masseys; last man, last shilling, about the 38th.

—W. H. Foord,
4/455 Main Body.

Your choice

"Don't you know, young lady," said the irate Thai policeman, "that two-piece bathing suits are not allowed on this beach?"

"All right then officer," replied the shapely American tourist, "which piece would you like me to remove?"

* * *
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Heard These Before?

A social worker, hearing that a group of refugees would be brought to a nearby church, got into her car and rushed to the spot. Soon a truck appeared laden with people. Clinging together on the edge of the crowd were an old man and an old woman.

"You two," she said, "would you like to come home with me?"

After a hasty consultation, they said they would be delighted to, and she took them to her house, gave them a good meal, and showed them to the guest room. In a few minutes the old lady appeared. Very humble she was, and most grateful for all the attention she had had, but would the kind lady be good enough to answer one question?

Of course she would, what is it?

"Well, madam, please tell me who is this old man I'm supposed to sleep with?"

The Judge looked up to see a familiar face before him. He said: "I've had you up here for speeding, drunken driving, reckless driving, parking alongside post boxes, driving a car with no registration sticker, driving without a licence plate, and the last time you were here I ordered your driving licence suspended. What's the charge this time?"

The defendant looked sheepish. He mumbled: "Jaywalking, your Honour."

A NEW METHOD OF RAINMAKING

A witch doctor returned to darkest Africa after a visit to England.

The Chief greeted him: "Glad you are back Witch Doctor, terrible drought in the land — make rain plenty quickly."

Witch Doctor: "No more me make rain Chief — use English method now."

Chief: "What you mean? Tell me."

Witch Doctor: "Well, English, they have mighty Witch Doctor. You go to big ground, lovely green grass, flags flying. Two men in white coats and black trousers walk on to the ground. They look up, all the people look up. One man puts red ball on ground — then they walk to three sticks in middle of ground. Eleven more men go through gate, pick up red ball and throw red ball all around — all people look up. Two more men carrying sticks walk through gate — they look up. They walk to sticks in middle of ground then they and all the people look up again. Man with red ball walks to three sticks, he turns and walks away. He turns around, scratches grass with boot, he looks up — he rubs red ball on shirt — and — down comes rain."

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PROPRIETOR: MR VIC CULLIS

Mr Amos was walking home from a tough day at the office when he was stopped by a tramp. Mr Amos happened to be in a pretty fair mood.

"Tell you what," said Mr Amos, "let's go into the corner bar and I'll buy you a couple of drinks."

"I don't drink," replied the tramp. "I said I was hungry."

"Well, have a cigarette," offered Mr Amos, "best on the market."

"I don't smoke," said the tramp. "All I want is something to eat."

"Look," said Mr Amos, "I happen to have the inside track on a long-shot at Trentham tomorrow. I'll put \$25 on the nose for you and you can keep the winnings."

Again the tramp refused. "I don't gamble, all I want is something to eat."

"That's all I wanted to hear," snickered Mr Amos, "You come home to dinner with me. I want my wife to see what happens to a guy that doesn't drink, smoke or gamble!..

*Excerpts from
November Executive
Meeting*

Welfare work active — ramp built for crippled member — schoolboys working for seven aged or disabled members.

Extraordinary General Meeting to be called to approve Award of Life Membership to Renwick member and to appoint trustees for Relief Account. December 6, 5.30pm.

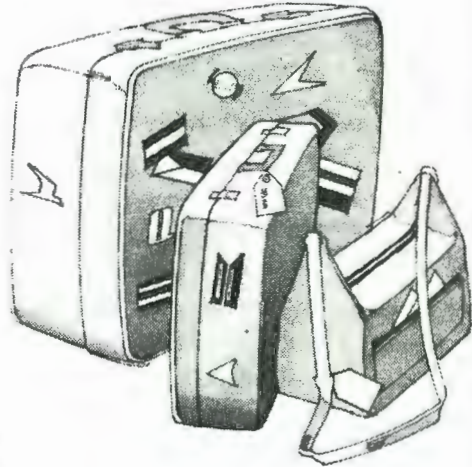
Sub-committee for insurance, rules and membership getting down to work.

Trading deficit decreased from \$7300 to \$5700. Bar net profit down to 12%.

Sub-committee likely to be formed to investigate and recommend any changes in present end-of-year voting for the Executive and the whole cost of running the election and sending out ballot papers, balance sheet, etc., to all members (only about 400 of the 1482 bother to vote).

Blenheim Police and Municipal Band to be entertained by members. Tentative date and time is Friday. December 7, from 5.30pm for an hour or so.

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CODE OF CITIZENSHIP

In fostering this code, the aim of the RSL is to improve the quality of life in Australia to make it worthy of those men and women who built this country and of those who gave their lives to preserve it.

WE BELIEVE the highest values of citizenship are fundamental to our society.

WE BELIEVE good citizenship is the responsibility of every citizen of Australia.

WE BELIEVE every citizen should uphold these social values:

Loyalty to Australia and the Crown.

Strong commitment to democracy and democratic institutions.

Respect for law and order and the rights of others.

Practical compassion for those in need.

High personal standards of responsibility, conduct, performance and integrity.

Fair dealing, and giving value for value.

Personal co-operation and friendship with citizens of other countries.

Unselfishness.

WE BELIEVE a sound home environment is desirable for the preservation of these values.

WE BELIEVE each generation is entitled to be grounded soundly in these values — in the home, in centres of learning and through the example of every adult citizen.

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The N.Z. Homservicemen's Assn (Inc).

ITS HISTORY AND RECORD

This organisation was founded at a conference in Wellington, convened and largely planned by the-NZRSA in 1943. At that date there were already in existence a number of independent local organisations under a variety of names but all with the same general objectives of providing representation, organisation, assistance, care and maintenance of morale for those servicemen who, because their service had been wholly in New Zealand, were not qualified to join up with the RSA.

Several of the local organisations had already progressed a considerable distance in membership and development and at this national conference were fused into a strong Dominion-wide body which rapidly spread its branches into every part of the country.

This organisation was founded by a handful of men with vision, foresight and practical idealism — men whose own knowledge and personal observation and experience in the Armed Services had convinced them that an organisation would be just as necessary to assist in the rehabilitation and safeguard the interests of those who had served in the forces within New Zealand as was the NZRSA to do the same for those who had served overseas.

They were convinced of this, firstly, because they remembered how the "homeservicemen" of WWI were handicapped through lack of an organisation to act for them; secondly, because of the numbers involved in WW2 (over 66,000 men and women served in the forces in New Zealand); thirdly, because of the length of service, with the consequent dislocation of home and family life and interruption to normal careers in many cases, and the obvious problems which would be associated with settling back into civilian life; fourthly, because of the injurious effects on health in many known cases and the special difficulties of rehabilitation in such cases; and, lastly, because these men believed that they had a duty towards their fellow-servicemen, especially to those who would need help in one form or another in the years to come.

This organisation was founded on a "shoe-string" and has operated on one ever since — in the words of an early Dominion President: "The Association was built out of nothing, with no strong ties, little public sympathy, and no publicity — we just thought we had a job worth doing."

Whatever finance has been required to carry out the purposes for which the Association was formed has been supplied by its branches throughout the country.

Had the membership strength continued at the early "peak" total of 20,000 to 25,000 (quite a reasonable expectation) the income from subscriptions, even at the comparatively low rate of 10/- per annum, would have been sufficient for all ordinary purposes.

As it is, because the membership has unfortunately fallen far below that level, branches have been compelled to augment their funds by whatever means were open to them.

This has thrown a heavy burden upon all branch officers and branch committee members over the years, and these men deserve the gratitude and practical support of all ex-homeservicemen for their efforts to keep the Association functioning fully and effectively.

Such is, briefly, the background to the formation and functioning of the New Zealand Homservicemen's Association.

And, finally, to consider its record.

Despite the initial handicaps and the later difficulties, the Association has won national recognition as the official voice of all ex-homeservicemen of WW2, it has obtained representation on almost all the auxiliary and subsidiary bodies that matter to ex-servicemen, and altogether it has achieved results far beyond proportion to its relative numerical and financial strength.

That so much has been achieved in so short a time is owing almost entirely to the fine calibre, the outstanding ability, the persistent efforts and the high sense of duty of those men who, without thought of personal reward, have guided the affairs and shaped the policies of the Association through its lifetime — Dominion officers, Dominion councillors, members of the management committee, branch officials and members of branch and sub-branch committees.

To these men all homeservicemen owe a debt of gratitude that can only be repaid in part by the actual membership and loyal support of everyone.

Enough has surely been written to show that the Association can and does do much to help all ex-homeservicemen during their lifetime, whether in health, in sickness or in hardship; that it will honour them in death; and that afterwards it will continue to help and care for their dependents.

As showing the potential membership of the Association, and because the figures have an important bearing on such aspects as rehabilitation, pensions and patriotic welfare funds, an analysis of the numbers and periods of service of homeservicemen during WW2 is set out below:

4 years' or more service	5872
3 to 4 years' service	9100
2 to 3 years' service	14488
1 to 2 years' service	16760
Under 1 year's service	19755
Total	65975

NOTE: These figures are as supplied at September 30, 1949.

As previously mentioned 11,566 rehabilitation loans of various kinds have been received by ex-homeservicemen, in many cases with the individual assistance of the Association.

In addition, a considerable number have been individually aided by the Association to obtain other forms of rehabilitation assistance such as trade training, educational grants, special licences, while many more have been materially assisted with their housing problems, pensions' claims, welfare needs and the many other difficulties encountered in settling back into civilian life.

While the actual number of such cases is not known, it must run into many thousands over the whole period, and very probably the above figure of 11,566 could at least be doubled — this is a continuing process, and the various forms of advice, information and practical assistance continue to be provided to members by Dominion Headquarters and all branches of the Association.

But, over and above the material assistance received by so many, is the important gain of greater recognition and respect and higher standing now enjoyed by all ex-homeservicemen as a result of the Association's efforts.

Just as all ex-homeservicemen have benefited through the existence of an Association, so too can they all contribute something to keep that Association alive — even if it be only by their actual membership!

There could be no more fitting conclusion than to quote once more those modest but revealing words of an early Dominion President, who was himself one of the founders of the New Zealand Homeservicemen's Association:

"WE JUST THOUGHT WE HAD A JOB WORTH DOING."

An account executive entertained some clients at a swank nightclub. When the cheque arrived, he whipped out his wallet but then did a double take and called the waiter. "Look," he said with some embarrassment, "I find I've got just about enough cash to cover the dinner but with practically nothing left over for the tip."

"Don't give it a second thought, sir," said the waiter, retrieving the cheque. "I'll just add up this thing again."

Best friend indeed

During an adult-education maths course, the instructor asked his class, "If a man sold a dozen diamond necklaces at seventy-five thousand dollars apiece and his profit was twenty-five per cent. what would he get for himself?"

One student raised her hand. "Anything he asked me for," she sighed.

dinner, which he was delighted and honoured to attend, would become an annual event.

Mr Pollard added that he looked forward to the time — not distant he hoped — when a worthy monument would be erected on a suitable spot, to perpetuate the gallant memory of the Marlborough men who had fought and bled for their country and their Empire. It would be a great pleasure for him to work for the project.

CLUB ROOMS

So the RSA was going from strength to strength. But it still had no headquarters of its own. While the war was still being fought, the first steps to achieve this desirable objective were taken. This was in the form of a Queen Carnival which had as its objective the raising of funds to furnish and equip Panama House, on the banks of the Taylor River and on the site now occupied by the new clubrooms, as a home for returned soldiers.

The property has been presented to the RSA for residential purposes, and it was proposed also to use part of the building for clubrooms and social gatherings.

The carnival took place late in 1918, and was highly successful. It was recorded at the time that the RSA had a membership of 120 but it was hoped that with the improved facilities, the membership would at least double.

The carnival raised £2328, with the Flaxbourne and East Coast representative, Miss Vera Rittson-Thomas, topping the poll with £946. There were seven candidates for the crown.

OPENING DAY

It was reported in *The Express* on April 28, 1919, that the establishment of a returned soldiers' club had been very much in the public mind during the past year. "The institution having been brought into being, it was not surprising that there was a large attendance at the opening function yesterday afternoon. It will be remembered that the club was formerly a boarding establishment, well known as Panama House.

"Realising the need for a rendezvous for returning men and hostel arrangements for their convenience, the sympathy of a number of citizens was enlisted by a committee of local business men, and over £1200 was generously subscribed and as a result the house and property were handed over to the Returned Soldiers' Association as a gift.

"With their object so near attainment, the local returned men set about raising funds for the reconstruction and furnishing of the

building, and this was accomplished by means of a Queen Carnival which netted £1950.

"While the work of rehabilitation was in progress, General Robin (Commandant of the N.Z. Forces— praised the locality of the club and expressed the opinion that it would be one of the most comfortable and most suitable for its purpose in the Dominion.

"The gathering yesterday confirmed this opinion, and the work of the local Association in establishing the institution in such a satisfactory manner was warmly commended. It was agreed that returned soldiers coming to Marlborough will not be lacking in a rendezvous where there is a restful yet cheering environment, recreation by means of billiards, cards and other table games, and boarding accommodation for those who have occasional necessity to come to town."

"Excuse me, sir", the young man said, nervously entering the living room where his girlfriend's father was reading the evening paper, "but there's something kind of important that I'd like to ask you. I was wondering whether — uh — that is, if you'd be willing to, er . . ."

"Why, of course, my boy", the father exclaimed, jumping to his feet and shaking the lad's hand vigorously. "I'll give my permission gladly, because my little girl's happiness is all that matters to me!"

"Permission?" the young man gulped, obviously confused.

"You want to marry my daughter", the father said, "and you have my blessing . . ."

"Oh, no sir", said the boy, "it's nothing like that. It's my car, sir. A payment was due last Thursday, and unless I can come up with fifty dollars right away, they're going to repossess it, so I was wondering if you . . ."

"Certainly not", the father snapped, returning to the sofa and his paper. "I hardly know you".

When the candidate received only three votes in the election his wife turned to him and said: "There! I always knew you were associating with another woman."

Junk Man: "Any beer bottles, lady?"

Lady: "Do I look as if I drink beer?"

Junk Man: "Well, then, any vinegar bottles, lady?"

A Look At The . . . **SECOND BATTALION (CANTERBURY, NELSON, MARLBOROUGH, WEST COAST) R.N.Z.I.R.**

New Zealand declared war against Germany as from 2130 hours on September 3, 1939. This action was taken within three minutes of receiving word that Great Britain was at war. On September 6, Cabinet authorised the mobilisation of a Special Force of 6000 men as the first contingent of an Infantry Division. Since the Territorial Army, or 1st Division, was nominally required for home defence, the overseas force became the 2nd Division. To avoid duplicating numbers held by any existing Units or Brigades, the numbering of the infantry Battalions began at 18, that is immediately after the 17th (Ruahine) Regiment of the 1st Division. Similarly, the brigades of 2nd Division were numbered 4, 5 and 6. Later a 3rd Division was raised for service in the Pacific.

The Special Force, referred to above, became by November 1939, 4 Bde 2 NZ Div. Its infantry battalions were raised on a District basis initially by volunteering. Conscription was started in 1940. Thus 18 Bn came from NMD, 10 Bn from CMD and 20 Bn from SMD. This system was carried on in the Second Echelon (5 Bde), the Third Echelon (6 Bde) and in 3 NZ Div.

Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast men were, in the main, found in the 20th, 23rd, 26th, 30th and 37th Battalions of 2 NZEF and it is from these battalions that 2 RNZIR inherits its battle honours of the 1939-45 war.

When the 3rd (Rifle) Bn Special Force, later to become 20th Bn, embodied at Burnham on October 5, 1939, the CO, Lt Col H. K. Kippenberger, grouped men together on a Regimental basis. A Coy drew its men from Canterbury, B Coy from Southland, C Coy from Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast, D Coy from Otago. This nomenclature for Companies was adopted by the later Battalions throughout the war. On October 12, 1939, 20 Bn (to be) asked for and obtained the regimental flags of the four South Island Regiments. They were flown, in turn, over Bn HQ. Later a flag was presented to the Bn. This flag had the badges of the four Regiments as quartering devices — in the case of NMWC the "XIII" badge was used.

Later, in Egypt, 20 Bn had another Flag made with the numeral "20" as a centrepiece. It is this second flag that was laid up in the Burnham Chapel in 1959. The original flag was "salvaged" by a loyal driver and in 1970 was presented to 2 RNZIR on long-term loan.

The links between the Territorial Regiments and the overseas Battalions are exemplified in the formation of the 23rd Bn. Twenty of the original officers held commissions in the Territorial Regiments, when they entered Burnham on November 8, 1939, to prepare for the men who would join them in January 1940.

Four Victoria Crosses were won by members of South Island Battalions, who came from 2 RNZIR's area. 2 Lt Charles Upham won a VC in Crete whilst commanding a West Coast Pl and gained the exceptional distinction of a bar to his VC for his part in the heavy fighting preceding the battle of El Alamein. At this period he was a Captain commanding C Coy 20 Bn.

Sergeant Jack Hinton, a West Coast member of 20 Bn, won a VC at Kalamata, Greece.

Sergeant Clive Hulme, a member of 23 Bn won his VC on Crete.

Space forbids any record of the deeds of the South Island Battalions, but these are readily available in the respective Official Histories.

The following list of battles, in which the Battalions were engaged, is included in this history for reference and inspiration for younger soldiers.

Mount Olympus; Servia Pass; Olympus Pass; Molos; GREECE 1941; CRETE; Maleme; Galatas; 42nd Street; Withdrawal to Sphakia; Middle East 1941-44; Tobruk; SIDI REZEGH 1941; Belhamed; Sidi Azeiz; Alem Hamza; Mersa Maruh; MINQAR QAIM; Defence of Alamein Line; Ruweisat Ridge; El Mreir; Alam El Halfa; EL ALAMEIN; El Agheila; Nofilia; Medinine; TEBAGA GAP; Point 201 (Roman Wall); El Hamma; Enfidaville; Takrouna; Djebel Terhouna; Djebel es Srafi; Djebibina; The Sangro; Castel Frentano; ORSOGNA; CASSINO; Cassino Railway Station; Arezzo; Advance to Florence; Cerbaia; Paula Line; San Michele; Faenza Pocket; Rio Fontanaccia; Pisciatello; Celle; St Angelo in Salute; THE SENIO; Santerno Crossing; Bologna; Sillaro Crossing; Idice Bridgehead; Solomons; Vella Lavella; Green Islands; SOUTH PACIFIC; 1942-44.

DRINK AND ENJOY 

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

G. K. Chesterton.



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TODAY'S GREAT BEER

THE CHAP FROM THE BUSH

(SHADES OF SYDNEY IN THE WILD OLD DAYS)

As the shades of night were falling over city, town and bush,
From a slum in Jones' Alley came the captain of the push.
His whistle loud and piercing woke the echoes of the rocks,
And a dozen louts came slouching round the corner of the block.
The captain jerked a finger at a stranger on the kerb,
Then he made the introduction "Here's a coney from the bush . . .
. . . wants to join us, be a member of the push!"
Then the stranger made this answer to the Captain of the Push.
"Why, . . . I'm Fred, the feller from the bush.
I've been to every two-up school from Wagga to the 'Loo,
I've swung an axe and (done other things), what more can a feller do?"
"Are you game to smash a winder?" said the Captain of the Push,
"I'd knock a bloody house down," said the feller from the bush.
"Would you knock a man down and rob him?" said the captain of the Push
"I'd knock him down and kill him," said the feller from the bush.
"Would you dong a blinkin' copper if you caught the mug alone?"
"Would you stoush a swell or chinkie, split his garret with a stone?"
"Would you have a doll to keep you, would you swear off work for good?"
"What, and live a life of ease? My silver-mounted colonial oath I would."
"Would you care to have a gasper?" asked the Captain of the Push,
"I'll take the whole damned packet," said the feller from the bush.
Then the Pushites all took council, saying "Gee, but he's game,
Let's make him our star basher, he'll live up to the name."
So they took him to their hide-out, that feller from the Bush,
And granted him all privileges appertaining to the Push.
But soon they found his little ways even more than they could stand,
And finally their captain thus addressed his band:
"Now listen here you fellows, we've caught a stinker tartar,
At every kind of bludgin' this fellow here's a starter.
At poker and at two-up he's taken all our rolls,
He swipes our blinkin' likker and robs our lovely dolls."
So down in Jones' Alley all the members of the Push
Laid a dark and dirty ambush for that feller from the bush.
But against the wall of Riley's Pub the feller made a stand,
A wicked grin upon his dial, a bike chain round each hand.
They fell upon him in a bunch, but one by one they fell,
With crack of bone, unearthly groan and agonising yell,
Till the sorely battered Captain spitting teeth and spouts of blood,
Addressed that grinning feller from the gutters slimy flood.
"You low polluted rat," snarled the Captain of the Push,
"get back where you came from . . . that's someplace in the bush.
And I hope heaps of misfortunes soon tumbles down on you,
May the Hong Kong 'flu affect you till your body turns sky blue.
May you take a swig of acid, mistakin' it for beer,
May the next Push you impose on 'eave you out upon your ear.
May swarms of ants torment you, may corns grow on your feet.
Then . . . when you're down and helpless, just a hopeless, hapless wreck,
May you fall flat on your face — and break your bloody neck."

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Women in the Services

WOMEN PLAYED a vital part in the preparations against invasion, and in the war effort as a whole. When war broke out the Women's War Service Auxiliary was established to co-ordinate the work of the many women's organizations which were anxious to undertake war services. At its peak, the W.W.S.A. and its affiliated organizations numbered 75,000.

In the Middle East and in the Pacific Army Nurses performed splendid work, often in conditions of great hardship and difficulty, and they won the gratitude and admiration of the troops. At one period more than 400 women were serving in the A.N.S.

As the demand for man-power grew, women replaced men in the Home Forces, thus freeing men for service overseas.

In January, 1941, the Air Force established the first women's auxiliary unit. The peak strength of the W.A.A.F. was

3,800. Many "Waafs" performed highly technical and specialized duties.

The W.R.N.S. was formed next. "Wrens" duties included map-plotting and technical work of various kinds. The number of "Wrens" was never very large, the peak strength being 519.

The last women's auxiliary to be formed, the W.A.A.C., was the strongest in numbers, there being 4,600 at one time. Many "Waacs" served overseas in the Middle East and the Pacific. Others were posted to coastal batteries and anti-aircraft stations.

Women replaced men, too, on the farms. In October, 1944, there were more than 2,000 members of the Women's Land Service employed in all branches of farming work.

In all these varied occupations, most of them strenuous, some of them highly technical and difficult, the women of New Zealand gave magnificent service.



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crossword puzzle 12

ACROSS

1. Game
5. Apex
9. Pitcher
Frisella
12. — ben
Adhem
13. Killer whale
14. Affirmative
15. English
surgeon
16. Pitcher
Gentry
17. Blunder
18. Arabic
letter
19. Inventor
Whitney
20. City in New
York
21. Electrified
particle
23. "O Sole —"
25. Clergyman
28. Beat soundly
32. Nobleman
33. National
League team
34. Primer
37. Greeted
39. WWII area
40. Poem
41. Pronoun
44. Infielder
Harrelson
46. Biblical
name
50. Crude metal
51. Work crew
52. Baseball

53. Measure of
capacity
(abbr.)

54. "Der —"
55. Wicked
56. French island
57. Stadium
sounds
58. Wriggling

6. Mountain
chain
7. Limit too
closely
8. Reimburse
9. Mets catcher
10. Air (comb.
form)
11. Not one (dial.)

DOWN

1. Mr.
Hemingway
2. Ancient
Greek coin
3. French
author
4. Rusty Staub's
position
5. Convincing

20. Mets
outfielder (2
wds.)
22. Bone
24. Large
Hawaiian
hawk
25. Through
26. Scottish
explorer
27. Mr. Gershwin
29. — Ott
30. Summer on
the Seine
31. Dangerous
drug
35. And (Lat.)
36. Pikelike fish
37. Former Mets
manager
38. Paid notice
41. — Berra,
Mets manager
42. Spoken
43. African river
45. Preposition
47. Outfielder
Marshall
48. Mr. Ludwig
49. Depend
51. Chatter idly

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
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56					57					58			

(Answer on Page 9.)

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