

VOL. 2, NO. 3.

DECEMBER 1979

CROSSFIRE



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE

MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES

ASSOCIATION

A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All.

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Editorial

Just about the same number of magazines are being claimed each month as were sold previously for 20 cents. The average we get back in donations is 5 cents which is about all we need to cover postage and envelopes to the 45 on our mailing list.

There has been a change of caterers and we now have Sam Lucas and Joyce Askew holding the fort. They are barely making ends meet because of increased costs. We feel these meals are a service to our members, particularly those who live on their own and who have to cook for themselves, so we could be very loath to have to discontinue it. However, if there's not an average living to be made from it we can't expect caterers to stay on. One way we can help is by bringing in any surplus vegetables. We often grow too much. We tend to plant things at the same time and consequently have more vegetables than we can use. If this is the case at home, your surplus veges would help a lot in cutting down the expense involved in providing the meals here and indirectly helping members who use the facilities.

The new financial year commences on January 1 and some may have forgotten that this is also the time when subs are due. This year membership is \$6, the date clips are red, as is the membership card. Date clips, by the way, are the shoddiest we have seen and quite a number look red and gold and some are just gold. However they will no doubt serve the purpose.

The Haggis Bashers of the Pipe Band our are guests on New Year's Eve at 5.30pm, so let's hope they turn out in force.

Crossfire wishes all members, their wives and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and to all our Veterans, continuing good health and enjoyment.

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Have you an old RSA cobbler who has moved to another town?

It would be a nice gesture if you paid the subscription and 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 REPORT

During the month Nola and I, Vern Anderson and Netta, Noel and Nola Healy, Norm and Mary Jellyman, Ray and Eileen Ingram, Paul and Rene Brodie and Jim and Mavis Maxwell all travelled to Kaikoura where I presented Mr Ken Pitman with a Life Membership Certificate and Badge at a function held at the Kowhai Golf Club, following the RSA golf tournament. Paul won a prize at the golf — most balls lost I think it was. Vern also gave a short talk on the functions of the D.E.C.

The Kaikoura people gave us all a wonderful welcome. Trevor Brown (President Kaikoura Sub-branch) gave all who stayed at his motel a complimentary stay. As Sunday is our carless day, Nola and I stayed until the Monday. It was I thought a very handsome gesture and we all thank you very much Trevor.

Nola and I also attended the Awatere sub-branch annual dinner. Flaxbourne members were also invited to attend, as were widows of Flaxbourne and Awatere members — a nice, thoughtful gesture. Paul and Rene were also guests and it gave Paul a chance to meet and talk with some of our country members. These country members really have the interests of the RSA at heart. During the evening I had the pleasure of presenting my old Sergeant-Major, Frank Conway, with Life membership Certificate and Badge. Frank has done sterling work for the RSA in the Awatere district.

In an effort to show our appreciation to the Municipal Band and the Police Force, we invited them to spend a social hour with us in the clubhouse. An opportunity many of them availed themselves of. We have lost one of our old identities and characters — Johnny McFarlane, who died after a short illness recently. We will all miss him around the clubhouse.

The Christmas Social was held on December 8 and a good time was had by all who attended. Our District President, Mr Vern Anderson, presented NZRSA Merit Certificates and Badges to Norm Jellyman and Bill Hathorne, and Life membership of Marlborough RSA to Win Giffin, Syd Robinson and Len Biddiss.

Alex Fry and his committee are working hard on the problem of rules and the future of RSA. It is a far from easy problem. Perhaps some thoughts of the Dominion President's committee on the "Future of RSA," of which Vern Anderson is a member, might not be out of place. At one stage the committee discussed seeking Dominion Council approval to require all affiliated RSAs to alter their rules to accept "Service" members, but it was agreed that "it is desirable that all Associations should amend their rules to allow for admission of 'service' members and that they should be encouraged to do this."

I think that a "systematic and gradual extension of membership rules as local circumstances dictate" is a more sensible and practicable approach as far as Marlborough RSA is concerned.

The committee decided to mount a determined and sustained membership drive.

It is also the intention of the committee to consider the removal of some of the restrictions in NZRSA Rule 1 at the next meeting.

A reminder that subscriptions are due on December 31 and may be paid now. Remember the subs are \$6 this year, \$3 of which goes to the NZRSA for capitation, 15c to the Chartered Clubs Association and 10 cents to ATC.

A further increase in cost of beer and spirits made it necessary to increase bar prices. As stocks held were low we had to pass on costs immediately and were not able to hold them for three months as was the case with the last increase.

As advised by the NZRSA we are to set up a Charitable Trust to administer our Welfare Fund. A registered trust is also a requirement of the Inland Revenue Department if we are to take advantage of tax rebates. At a recent extraordinary general meeting, nine trustees were elected to administer this trust. At the same meeting Life Membership was approved for Mr John Morgan of the Renwick Sub-branch.

In closing this report, Nola and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

KEN YEALANDS

Chief: "Daughter, I just looked in your teepee and see two braves you got locked up there. This not Indian custom. How come?"

Girl: "I'm just following your advice, dad. I'm putting a few bucks away for a rainy day!"

The way people dance these days . . . scene: A crowded dance floor in Auckland.

A beautiful blonde says, "Thanks so much for dancing with me . . ."

"Dance?" says the man. "I was just pushing my way through the crowd to get to the bar."

EX-MALAYAN ASSN BIENNIAL REUNION

The Biennial Reunion held at Wanganui over Labour weekend was attended by John and Margaret Bull, Bill and Anne Ross and Peter and Joss Callahan, and proved to be a most enjoyable experience for all concerned. While John and Margaret had attended previous reunions, for the rest of us it was our first and it most certainly will not be our last! From the get-together on Friday night many old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The biennial meeting held on Saturday morning saw the return of the previous national Executive, plus two new vice-presidents. The executive is: President, Eddie Housham; vice-presidents: Peter Pexton (Auckland), Jim Perry (Rotorua), Doug Smith (Christchurch); treasurer, Trevor Dean; secretary, Brian Miller.

The biennial meeting also saw an increase in the national subscription which has now been raised from \$3 to \$5 p.a., the reason for this being rising postage charges and general inflationary trend. It was also agreed that the branch secretaries collect the national sub. and issue membership cards as from the start of the next financial year which begins January 1, 1980.

The ball on Saturday night was well attended as was Sunday night's Cabaret. The catering for these functions could not be faulted and the items by the Maori Concert Party was absolutely top-class. All in all the reunion was well organised and our sincere thanks go to the Wanganui branch for the effort they put into it and to looking after the 350 members and wives who attended.

Christmas Cheer

This year, RSA Welfare, besides giving a Christmas present to every returned person in hospitals in Marlborough, will be making 20 monetary grants to widows and needy; presenting 46 WWI veterans with a tin of tea or fancy biscuits; giving a grant to ex-service occupants of Amersfoote Home and presenting other widows and needy with posies and tins of biscuits or tea. We also give our buglers a gratuity. Total expenditure is expected to be over \$1250.

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Marlborough RSA 30 Years Ago . . .

President: R. A. Mears; Executive: W. A. Hood, G. H. Stace, R. D. Wanden, R. K. Harvey, A. Broadley, J. A. Bell, L. D. Waters, F. W. Horton, F. A. Harrison, F. O. Delany, J. S. Bain (secretary), H. A. J. Sowman, F. Butt, F. W. Parker and A. D. Gibb. Branches: J. Sutherland (Picton), J. Thomson and S. Waters (Ward), F. V. H. Robinson and L. A. Harper (Renwick) and A. A. Kitching (Rai).

The secretary had travelled to Wellington to endeavour to finalise renovation of the billiards table, club charter matters, a tumbler washer and the Diggers' bowling tournament.

NZRSA asked for information concerning delays in granting rehabilitating loans for the purchase of trucks by ex-servicemen.

A letter was received from Picton sub-branch forwarding £5 towards the Overseas Parcel Fund.

Advice received that Messrs R. A. Mears and J. Breahley were awarded the Certificate of Merit.

Meeting to be arranged with President H.S.A. re use of RSA clubrooms.

Payments for the month amounted to

£82/18/10 general account and £3/18/5 relief account.

Decided to make usual Xmas grants to needy.

Rose Day netted £52/18/-.

Approval granted to spend £200 on renovating the clubhouse residence.

Clark McConachy invited to demonstrate billiards and snooker on 17/12/49.

Christmas bonus of £5 granted to secretary, typist and steward.

★ ★ ★ ★

and 25 years ago . . .

President: R. T. Scott; Executive: J. A. Bell, F. O. Delany, R. C. S. Bush, F. A. Harrison, W. A. Hood, L. D. Waters, W. J. Perkins, R. D. Wanden, J. M. Walsh and P. G. Tizard (secretary). Branches: F. W. Parker (East Coast), A. A. Kitching (Rai), M. C. Harris (Awatere), P. L. Smith (Renwick), N. Jellyman (Kaikoura), T. B. Madsen and C. Beaumont-Neilson (Picton).

W. Perkins reported on progress with the council regarding grading, consolidating and sealing approaches to the clubhouse — to be done when labour available.

State Advances Corporation advised no change in re-habilitation housing loan interest rate of 3% reducible to 2% for the first year.

General account receipts were £972, payments £983, leaving a debit trading balance of £403.

Welfare account payments were £33, payments £52, leaving a credit balance of £145.

Membership was 1660 (previous year 1671). Office to be closed Dec. 25 to Jan. 9.

A member was suspended for one month for bad behaviour.

A water cooler was suggested for the bar by W. Perkins.

A letter to the Hon. T. P. Shand was forwarded congratulating him on his appointment to Cabinet rank.

Application made to hold Diggers' Bowling Tournament in Blenheim in 1959.

FORCES OVERSEAS PARCELS

At the last Dominion conference it was resolved to discontinue the issue of Christmas parcels to forces overseas this year.

Instead of a food parcel, servicemen overseas will be presented with an RSA billfold and a Xmas greeting card. The message with the billfold reads:

"On behalf of all members of the New Zealand Returned Services' Association I extend cordial seasonal greetings to you for the festive season and ask you to accept this token gift as an indication of our appreciation of a job well done.

We look forward to your return home at the

end of your tour of duty.

You will be eligible to join the RSA in your own right but in any case we hope that you will visit the RSA in your home town or elsewhere when you take your leave, you will be welcome in RSA clubs and faciities will be available to you during your leave period.

If, as we hope, you do join the Association, you will be able to continue the tradition of service and actively practise the RSA motto of 'PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE'."

There are 846 servicemen in Singapore and three in Palestine who will receive the gift and message.

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We will remember them."**



**THEY GAVE THEIR ALL
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.

NELSON SQUARE, PICTON

WEEKLY SPECIALS

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OPEN SEVEN DAYS

HISTORY OF THE AK47 IN OUR SHOWCASE

In May of 1968 the 1st Australian Task Force was deployed on Operation Toan Thang, in Bien Hoa province, in a position to block enemy withdrawal routes, during the enemy's May offensive on Saigon 25 miles south-east.

Two Five Support Bases, "Coral" and "Balmoral" were established across these withdrawal routes which were somewhat of an embarrassment to the enemy who tried on four different occasions to take them out but failed each time.

The AK47 Chinese rifle in the RSA weapons display case was captured by gunners of 161 Battery R.N.Z.A. attached to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, during the second attack that was launched on Fire Support Base "Balmoral" on the morning of May 28, 1968.

At about 12.30am a mortar, rocket and recoil-less rifle barrage was laid down on both the fire support bases and then an estimated regiment (800-strong), the Dang Nai Regt 9th North Vietnamese Army Division launched a three-pronged ground assault on the perimeter wire of the four Australian companies of the 3rd Battalion.

Assault after assault was repulsed by the defending Battalion and tanks of the 1st Armoured Regt. RAAC.

Supporting Artillery fire from 161 Battery RNZA, 102 Fd Battery and 155mm S.P's of the A Battery 2/35 U.S. Army Battalion at fire support base "Coral" 5000 metres away was called in to within 150 metres of "Balmoral's" wire, while helicopter gunships from an American Assault Helicopter Company were called in and a D.C. 3-flare-dragon ship, known as "Spooky," dropped 2¼ million candle-power para-illumination flares while raking the enemy with 7.62mm Gatling machine-gun fire at a rate

of 18,000 rounds per minute.

The enemy withdrawal at first light, dragging away many of their dead but leaving 42 bodies on the perimeter as well as a large range of weapons.

During the month-long operation the friendly casualties were 28 killed in action and 102 wounded. By body count, the enemy lost 224 killed, but they must have sustained much heavier casualties; this will never be known as he always drags away as many of his dead as he can.

It may be of interest to know that by the end of July the Dong Nai Regt was virtually non-existent and their final blow came when 113 of the regiment threw down their arms and surrendered to Government troops one day just outside Saigon.

PEOPLE, HELPING PEOPLE

RSA initiative, sparked of by Chas Amey, is providing a roster of drivers to man a vehicle attached to the Day Care Clinic at Wairau Hospital. The mini-bus was donated by the Lions Club to provide transport for day care patients attending the clinic, and now a team of spare-time drivers — their main occupation is bowling — has taken on the duty of providing drivers each day. An hour in the morning from 9-10am and the return trip in the afternoon, 3-4pm, may mean losing a game of bowls, but all the volunteers are finding great satisfaction in taking part in this community service. And quite a few of the patients are our own members. To allow for holidays, etc., there is room for a few more drivers, so if you have an hour to spare, once a fortnight, please contact Chas Amey or the Editor.

IN TOWN FOR THE DAY?

Try lunch at the RSA — 12 noon to 1.30pm
Monday to Friday.

Cairo and the Pyramids of Egypt

AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER
IN WORLD WAR TWO — BY C. M. J. WATSON

As a member of the 27th Vickers Machinegun Btn I was fortunate enough to be included for a three-week tour of duty in the very ancient and famous Citadel of Cairo. Situated in a commanding position on the Moqattam hills overlooking Cairo it was begun by Sultan Salah el Din (commonly called Saladin) in 1176. It was Saladin whom King Richard I defeated during the Third Crusade in 1191.

According to the accounts of the Arab historians, the Citadel was built with stones taken from the smaller pyramids at Giza. From behind the alabaster Mosque of Mohammad Ali within the Citadel I often saw the very beautiful sunsets behind the pyramids.

I had been on guard duty at the massive main gate for two days when someone discovered that I was a qualified signaller and I was promptly given a job on the Citadels 50-line telephone exchange — a much-envied and interesting job — one day on the next off — so I got plenty of leave to explore Cairo and delve into some of its very ancient history.

Cairo itself is well over 1000 years old and many of the Egyptian remains in the neighbourhood are several times that age. The large pyramid at Giza, that of Cheops, is about 4900 years old and the second pyramid that of Chephren and the Sphinx, about 4840 years old.

In order to make clear the size of the large pyramid at Giza, I will supply a few figures. The pyramid covers an area of about 13 acres. The original height was about 480 feet. It is estimated that the number of blocks of stone used was about 2,300,000, the average size of each being about 40 cu ft and their weight about two and a half tons. The greater part of the stone used for the pyramid is fossiliferous limestone cut from the plateau on which it stands, and the hollow nearby, where the Sphinx is, is a quarry from which the stone was obtained. The pyramid was coated with a much finer quality of limestone, which was brought across the Nile from near Tura and Masara, where the ancient quarries may still be seen.

In fact, we were camped for two weeks near the Tura quarry which at that time was being used as an exercise yard for prisoners from a nearby Egyptian prison.

A large amount of coarse-grained red granite from Aswan, some 500 miles away, was used in the interior of the pyramid, especially for lining the burial chamber. The pyramid of Chephren was originally 471ft high and part of

the limestone outer casing at the top still remains. The third Giza pyramid, that of Mycerinus, is much smaller, but I cannot recall its height.

The Sphinx is a colossal recumbent lion with the head of Chephren and is of the same age as the second pyramid. No visit to Cairo would be complete without a visit to the famous Khan Kauu covered bazaars (more commonly known as the musky bazaars) possibly because they were situated on Sharia Musky near to the Cairo Opera House.

In the musky bazaars it was possible to buy a vast array of hand-made jewellery and precious stone and alabaster figures and a host of other unusual art objects.

While on leave in Cairo I happened to be on hand when a young Jewish boy was knocked over by a taxi. I arranged first aid for him and as he was not too badly hurt (mostly shock) I saw him to his home, which happened to be in the Musky and from then on his family could not do enough for me and invited me to their home whenever I was on leave.

The elder brothers took me to places I would never have seen otherwise because a great deal of the city was out of bounds to troops because of danger to their lives. As a signaller I was only too well aware that many a soldier on leave in Cairo who became drunk or left the prescribed areas went missing and were often never found or sometimes parts of their dismembered bodies were found in a wayside ditch and their folks were probably advised "accidentally killed."

The N.Z. Forces Club in Cairo was on the corner of Sharia Emad el Din and Sharia El Malika Farida and was a home away from home for the thousands of Kiwi troops who made it their headquarters.

I remember taking some American airmen friends there as my guests and they were amazed that we could buy ice-cream — something not available in their clubs.

In those days some 38 years ago, any story

of Cairo would have been incomplete without mention of Abdin Royal Palace, the residence of the long since deposed King Farouk.

I must mention the equally famous, or perhaps I should say infamous, Wagh el Birket, street of prostitutes. The fetid smell of the place put most chaps off — but some hardened ones sampled its dangerous wares and most ended up in hospital with virulent VD in some form.

Finally, Bab el Louk, name of the Cairo railway station, from where we left for our base camp at Maadi will live forever in the memory of thousands of Kiwi troops.

And then there was the one about the troopship well out on the voyage, when a storm blew up and a soldier leaning over the rail fell into the sea. Before the troopship could be halted, another soldier plunged overboard into the water beside him. He held the soldier up until a lifeboat rescued them. That evening the C.O. gave permission for the troops to hold a party in honour of the sergeant's bravery, and the soldiers clamoured for him to make a speech. Rising slowly, the sergeant glared around and said: "I've only got one question to ask, WHO PUSHED ME?"

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP
MARLBOROUGH RSA**

The following is a list of members who have been honoured with the Award of Active Life Membership:

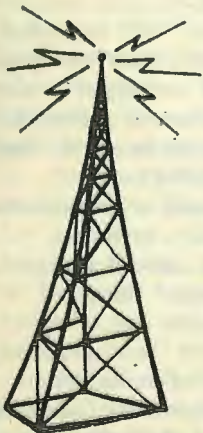
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Patriotic Welfare In New Zealand

The N.Z. Patriotic Fund Board, the Canteen Fund Board and the 14 Provincial Patriotic Councils were set up after the Second World War under the terms of the Patriotic and Canteen Funds Act 1947.

The N.Z. Patriotic consists of one representative of each of the 14 Provincial Patriotic Councils, the 9 members of the Canteen Fund Board, 7 members appointed on the nomination of the Board itself, and the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

The nine members of the Canteen Fund Board represent the various ex-service organisations: NZRSA (3), NZHSA (3), 2 NZEF Association (1), Air Force Association (1) and ex-Royal Navalmen's Association (1).

Under the constitutions of the councils as provided in the Act, councils shall include one or more discharged servicemen appointed to represent the discharged servicemen's organisations in their particular districts.

The boards are mainly concerned with the building, conduct and management of the six war veterans homes in N.Z., major cases of welfare assistance, distribution of hospital comforts, and the control of expending agents both at home and overseas.

The Patriotic Councils are autonomous bodies and are responsible for all patriotic welfare in their own districts. They have full control over their own affairs, subject only to the terms of the Act, and any decision of the boards on policy matters. Under the Patriotic Purposes emergency Regulations that operated throughout the war years the councils were the main instruments in raising and collecting the funds. The headquarters fund was built up largely by contributions made by the councils on a population basis. In turn the present boards

have set aside welfare reserves to replenish the council's funds as and when they become exhausted.

The functions of the boards and councils are:

(a) The relief, assistance and support of discharged servicemen who may be suffering from disablement or sickness (whether attributable to war service or otherwise), or out of employment, or otherwise in need, and of the dependents of any such discharged serviceman.

(b) The relief, assistance and support of the dependents of any deceased serviceman or discharged serviceman.

(c) Such other purposes as the Minister may from time to time prescribe by notice published in the Gazette. Under this section all wars up to and including Vietnam have been included.

It will be seen from the objects that the boards and councils are limited to assisting discharged servicemen and their dependents. That is the reason why the funds cannot provide parcels of comforts for those serving overseas in Vietnam and elsewhere.

The source of the funds:

On their formation in 1947 the N.Z. Patriotic Fund Board and the Provincial Patriotic Councils were charged with administering the unspent balances of Patriotic funds raised by public subscription and other means in N.Z. during the 1939-45 war.

The Canteen Fund Board's funds came from its share of canteen profits earned in N.Z. and overseas through NAAFI and other sources, and include a proportion from J Force.

Eligibility for assistance:

The definition of the term "serviceman" as defined in the Act and various amendments is complicated, but in general terms the following classes of ex-servicemen and their dependents would be eligible for assistance:

Any persons who served in the South African War or First World War.

Any person who served in the ALLIED forces in the Second World War at HOME OR ABROAD to March 31, 1946. Any person who served OVERSEAS in J Force, K Force, Malayan Force, Special Air Services Squadron and Vietnam.

In particular:

Proof of service must be sighted or verified from Base Records. RSA or HSA membership alone is not sufficient.

To become eligible the applicant must have been ATTESTED for home or overseas service. Those who claim they saw service in the merchant marine must produce their ships papers which will indicate whether the ship served in a theatre of war. Second World War applicants must have seen service prior to March 31, 1946.

Blenheim Women's Section

In spite of a very wet afternoon there was a good attendance at the November meeting. Members were entertained by the voices of the girls and boys from the Redwoodtown School. Under the leadership of their teacher, Mr Milmine, these children captivated their audience with their delightful singing. They were the choir who represented Redwoodtown at the Primary Schools Music Festival.

Our members travelled to Renwick and Picton to their Christmas parties and as always the entertainment and hospitality made for delightful evenings. President, Mrs Eva Kennington, thanked the ladies from these sections for their entertaining and hilarious items and also the beautiful suppers for which they are renowned.

Our section is looking forward to our Christmas Dinner when we will have Renwick and Picton as our guests.

Our last social gathering for this year was on December 10.

Members provided afternoon tea for Heritage Parents and Mr H. P. Glen, president of Heritage, conveyed thanks for this effort, which he said was a pleasant end to a successful function.

To all who have assisted the women's section, our president and committee extend sincere greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MARLBOROUGH PROVINCIAL PATRIOTIC COUNCIL 30/9/79

The standing committee met on the third Wednesday of each month during the year.

Nineteen applications were received during the year for assistance — 17 were approved in the form of grants and two applications for loans on mortgage were declined. The only loan outstanding was repaid in full. The amount approved in grants amounted to \$809.47 and of this sum, Marlborough RSA contributed \$50 and the national Patriotic Fund Board \$192.22, leaving the net amount of grants paid out \$567.25. Fourteen of the grants were to WW1 servicemen or dependents and three to WW2 servicemen or dependents.

The average grant was \$15.75.

During the year we reimbursed Kaikoura Imprest with \$65, being half the amount of grants made by them for firewood and Christmas grants. Income for the year from investments amounted to \$1276.80; payments for grants and administration amounted to \$1417.72 and you will note that our income-expenditure account showed a deficit of \$140.92.

The council's cash assets amount to \$15,531.59, of which \$2200.59 is readily available to meet urgent cases. The balance of \$12,500 is in Government stock, A.N.Z. investment account and A.N.Z. term deposit.

The cost of repairing TV sets which are loaned to veterans and widows was becoming an escalating cost, so an advertisement was placed in the local paper asking for donations of old sets. Six were obtained at a cost of \$20 and as they become beyond economical repair they will be written off.

Thanks again to the RSA, the salaries for the year have remained at \$442. This amount includes the use of the RSA post office box, RSA telephone, free postage and use of a meeting room, office space and staff labour.

The welfare cases dealt with emphasise how the Council can assist and there has been a good deal of co-operation between the Council and Marlborough RSA in assisting worthy cases.

F. W. HORTON,
Chairman.

Tales From The Old Digs . . .

There was something practical as well as humorous in the character of the Digger. He might have been a simple fellow at heart, but he was no fool. he did not court hardship, but he could take it, if not with a smile, then with a joke, usually against himself. Typical of the practical-cum-comic in his make-up is the tale of the quarter-master sergeant, renowned for his liberality with the rum issue. His popularity, allied with the heavy run on the rum supplies aroused suspicion higher up the line and a new supply officer was sent along to see if the rum issue was handed out strictly in accordance with the regulations. He perceived that it was not.

"I say, quarter-master," he barked. "Are you dispensing that rum pro rata or promiscuously?"

"No," the sergeant replied. "Pro bono publico."

★ ★ ★

At the RSA golf tournament, one of the newcomers to the game stood bravely on the first tee. He swiped viciously at the ball and missed it completely. Then he tried again, and again — each time digging a great hole in the turf — but he never touched the ball. As he raised the club for the 12th stroke, two ants crawled out of one of the holes. Said one to his mate: "Quick, let's climb into the ball before this Digger kills us."

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The 36th Annual Report of Heritage (Marlborough) Inc.

By Mr. H. P. Glen

I have pleasure in submitting the 36th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended September 30, 1979.

MEMBERSHIP

Life members number 63, an increase of 11, and annual subscribing members remain the same at 139. The following annual members transferred to life membership: Messrs V. J. Anderson, T. J. Boyce, R. T. Denton, J. B. McMath, A. C. Newton, M. W. Wisheart, and a welcome is extended to newly-joined life members, Messrs F. W. Matthews, R. G. Millar, J. R. Moore, S. J. Moore and Mrs P. Shattock.

Marlborough RSA, its women's section and POW Association continue their active support for Heritage.

We express our congratulations to Vice-President W. J. (Win) Giffin, who has been awarded life membership of the Marlborough RSA.

HERITAGE FAMILIES

We have 38 families on our register and 70

young people. There has been a decrease in the numbers of younger children over the past few years, which was to be expected with the passing of time. In 1971, the number of children was 110.

In 1978 the total was 77, and this past year the number has dropped to 70.

WORK AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The first event of the year was the fourth annual luncheon for our widows, committee members and their wives, held in the City Hotel on Sunday, November 26, 1978.

Once again, Miss G. T. Chapman made her annual contribution to heritage in the form of a beautifully served and sumptuous luncheon at a very moderate charge.

Heritage is appreciative also of the generous contributions from Pyne Gould Guinness Ltd, Wrightson NMA and the Marlborough RSA towards our entertainment. After lunch, the guests were entertained in the RSA with a vivid account of how to win a gold disc award by Allan Gardiner, who led, with his versatility on the piano, a community sing-song, which was climaxed when he accompanied some delightful whistling solos by a long-standing committee member, Mrs Vyner Quinn. Afternoon tea, provided by the women's section of RSA completed a splendid outing.

Christmas, birthday and wedding gifts have

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You can count on . . .*



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9 MAXWELL ROAD, BLENHEIM.

TELEPHONE 89-243

been distributed under the able and understanding guidance of our Field Officer, Mrs Colleen Neal. Payments were made to many families of college examination fees, activities fees, and tuition in music, sports and educational trips and school uniforms. Several children were provided with holiday accommodation at ranch-style recreation camps where there are good programmes of outdoor activity. Good news often comes to the committee of the achievements of young people in scholarship, sport, public speaking, music and art.

The Lions Club generously paid for a year's membership for two girls at the disco club. Grocery vouchers of \$25 per family were sent out before Christmas.

We express our thanks to the Mayor, Borough Council and pool custodian for a group ticket to provide free admission to all our children, up to the age of 15, to the Olympic Pool. It is pleasing to note that more of our families are availing themselves of this concession.

FINANCE

There is an excess of income over expenditure of \$831.45. Subscriptions have risen from \$337 to \$497 owing to the increase in life members, donations from \$315 to \$594.23 and the grant from the Godfrey William Magnus

Trust from \$1800 to \$2150. From the Canterbury Savings Bank we received \$75.

Heritage records that life membership stands at its 1943 figure of \$21 and annual subscriptions are now \$2, in place of the old figure of \$2.10. Arriving very soon after the close of our financial year from the Charles and Ella Elgar Trust, was a grant of \$500 to assist a senior college pupil to embark on a university career. These are testing times for students who have to travel and board, and this grant is greatly appreciated. It would be pity to leave our acknowledgement for a year.

Total expenditure was \$3238.63 — down by \$94.17. With rises in clothing, birthday and Christmas gifts, administrative expenses such as postage, printing and duplicating and falls in general educational expenses due to fewer children entering their first year at college.

APPRECIATION

We express our thanks to Mr C. B. Fischer, Director of Social Welfare and his staff for friendly assistance and advice. We appreciate the publicity given to our activities by the Marlborough Express and Radio 2ZE.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for their continued service and loyalty, in particular Mr A. C. Thurlow, our honorary secretary, for his assiduous attention

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FOR ALL YOUR
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to the detailed work of his position; Mr Roy Cunningham for his able management of our finances; Mrs Colleen Neal, our field officer, on the completion of a successful year of visiting and distribution of Christmas, birthday, marriage gifts and greetings; Mr M. W. Wisheart, our honorary solicitor, and Mr J. R. Naysmith, our honorary auditor.

HE'S CERTAIN

Two soldiers were discussing their girlfriends back home.

"My girl's not doing any playing around," said one with absolute certainty.

"How can you be sure?" asked his cobber.

"Well, for one thing, she's got three more years to serve before she gets out of jail."

* * *

When the travelling salesman walked into the country store, everyone was gathered around a poker table, where four of the old-timers were playing poker with a fox terrier. The salesman grew more and more amazed as he watched the dog signal for three cards, put down its bets and finally rake in the pot.

Unable to contain his wonder any longer, the salesman turned to one of the players and remarked, "I never saw such a dog; there never was a dog so smart before!"

"He ain't a very good poker player," drawled the player. "Whenever he gets a real good hand, he always wags his tail."

* * *

If you want your wife to sit up and take notice, just talk in your sleep.

* * *

First Student: "Did you show your thesis to the professor yet?"

Second Student: "Oh, my, do I have to?"

* * *

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 13

SER	SAFE	FARO
ALE	OVER	OSAR
CIVILIZE	WINE	
OVID	SLATS	
PALED	CAPE	
ANTS	CABARETS	
TOE	RAGES	LOO
ENDEARED	HERR	
ACTS	COMET	
CHASE	LOPE	
HART	CREDENZA	
ALEE	HONE	TOP
PEAR	IDES	SOT

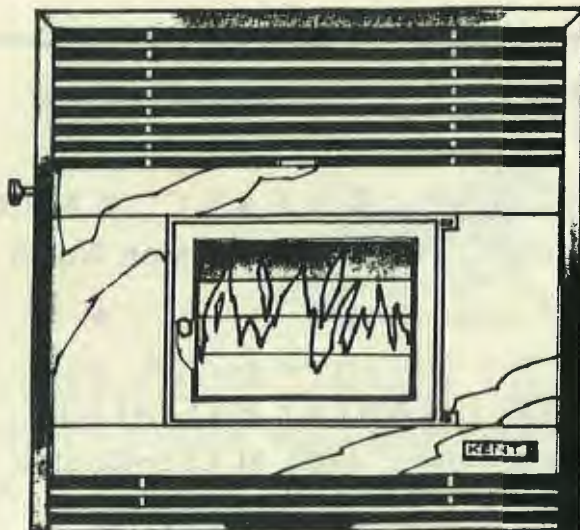
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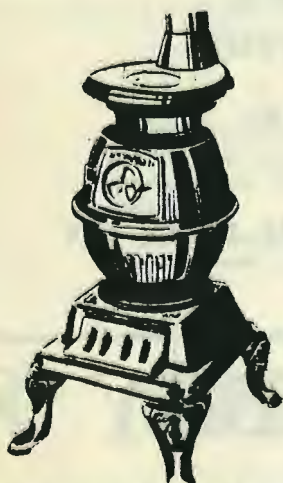
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SHEETS

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MAY 3 and 4, 1980, at Palmerston North

★ ★ ★

20TH N.Z. INFANTRY BATTALION
May 30 and June 1, 1980, at Christchurch.

★ ★ ★

1980 DATE CLIPS NOW AVAILABLE
ON PAYMENT OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

THE HOME BREW CONTEST HAS BEEN WON BY
BOB BULLEN

REMEMBER — THERE IS A DANCE IN THE HALL ON
NEW YEAR'S EVE

★ ★ ★ **A. R. WEBBY CA**
★ ★ ★ **FOR ALL YOUR *FOR FRIENDLY S***
LUBRICATION ★ **TUNE-UPS** 2a PARK TERRACE, BLENHEIM

HAVE YOUR DRAPES MADE TO MEASURE IN OUR MODERN WORKROOM

HEETS * TOWELS * BLANKETS * DACRON BLANKETS * EIDERDOWNS * TEA TOWELS * PILLOWCASES



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Horses to follow over the Holidays

ALPINE PEAK
JERRY'S GIRL
KIWI BERRY
PREMATURE

TEMPEST TIGER
MISS PERT
BRONZE QUEEN
LOCARNO

INVEST
CAPTAIN LOPEZ
WINTER BOY
AVALON

★

★

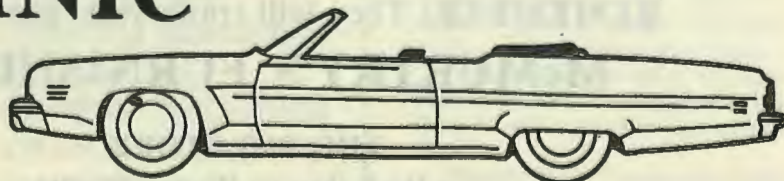
★

★ TWO psychiatrists, who had known each other at university, met at a medical convention. As they passed, one of them looked at the other and said, "Hullo."

The other psychiatrist went on his way, but suddenly stopped and said to himself, "I wonder what he meant by that?"

AR CLINIC

SERVICE



HEIM

CAR REPAIRS

★

MAINTENANCE

Picton RSA News

The month of November was perhaps the busiest month the Picton branch has experienced, with activities each weekend.

On Saturday 10th we held our monthly social which was quite well patronised and those who did attend were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On Wednesday 14th, a crowd of 12 eager pool players arrived at the Marlborough RSA to find what few members were there from the pool club extremely embarrassed. Apparently, they'd held a meeting three weeks before and decided to fold up for the year and, of course, somebody forgot to tell Picton. However, teams were made up and everyone had a great night. We have regained the "Six Ball" trophy by default.

Saturday the 17th saw a visit from the Wanderers, a dart club from Lower Hutt. Their weekend turned out to be what could be expected from a club with a name like "Wanderers." I'll wager they don't know that we beat them at darts and pool. Thanks also to Tom McManaway who took them fishing on Sunday, a highlight of their trip.

Our biennial visit from Westport went as smoothly as any organiser could hope for. The bus arrived at 9.30pm on the 23rd and the

visitors were given supper and packed off to their hotel-motel by midnight.

The keen ones were up and away fishing with Les Evans on the "E-Jay" by 7am. This trip was organised by Ross Fredericks, who had everything off pat, from breakfast and lunch, to fish on the end of the line at the fishing ground. Many of the party confessed that they also fed the fish on the homeward journey when it got a bit bumpy, but even so, all said they'll go on the fishing trip next time.

The less hardy souls elected to take a leisurely Sounds cruise. They also fed fish, but that was organised in the form of the pet fish at Double Bay.

In the evening the best social of the year was held and the upstairs social room was crowded to capacity, while the lounge bar also had a big crowd.

Sunday was devoted to pool and darts and then what can best be described as a banquet lunch put on by the ladies section. It was 2pm before a very reluctant-to-leave party were finally herded on to the bus and departed over one hour late.

On Saturday, December 1, Post Office staff used our clubrooms to farewell an employee and one of our members, Mr Jim Saunders, and his wife, who have been transferred to Te Puke.

All in all a very busy and successful month

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and congratulations and thanks to the organisers of the various functions, especially to the ladies section who were always on hand to provide suppers, lunch, etc, and also Ross Fredericks social committee.

The organisation must have been stretched to the limit at times, but they came out of it with honours.

The Christmas social will be held on Saturday, December 22. Let's hope your attendance will make it another record evening.

The Clubroom extensions have now been completed in the lounge bar and social room upstairs and to our country members I suggest you make an effort to come and see what has been done. Full marks to Jim Maxwell whose patience and perseverance has given us a club of which we can be justifiably proud.

The indoor bowls room is a long way from being finished, but then the 1980 indoor bowls season is still a fair way off.

As far as I can establish, and country members please check nearer the time, I believe

the opening date will still be January 26. Unfortunately there will be no Crossfire in January, so this is the last opportunity to advise you, which I can't, so please check early in January.

NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

Members stood as a mark of respect to the late:

N.13210 A. T. (Sandy) Powell, WW1
9/1013 J. R. Bradley, WW1

Discussion was held on insurance and it was resolved that the finance committee investigate and bring down a recommendation to the next meeting . . . It was reported that the Smith family, who have been mowing the club lawns and caring for the cemetery for the last 5 years will cease from the end of November. The president expressed gratitude for their conscientious efforts. Mr Brian Mattingley has agreed to take over from the Smith family.

ITEMS FROM CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

The secretary has written to Billiards Ltd re bent cues which arrived with the new table — It

(Continued on Page 23)

BLENHEIM COMMERCIAL CLEANERS

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Off the beam

A father decided his small son was a little off the beam. He took him to a psychiatrist who asked the boy a few questions.

"How many wheels does a car have?"

"Four."

"What is it a cow has four of that a woman has two of?"

"Legs."

"What does your father have that your mother likes most?"

"Money."

The psychiatrist turned to the father and said, "This boy is smart."

The father said, "I guess so. I missed the last two questions myself."

Soggy sale

A real estate salesman had just closed his first deal, only to discover that the piece of land he had just sold was completely under water.

"That customer's going to come back here mad," he predicted to his boss. "Shall I give him his money back?"

"Money back?" roared the boss. "What kind of a salesman are you anyway? Get out there and sell him a motorboat."

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



was resolved that no jugs are to be filled after 10 minutes before closing time and that the bell will be rung 15 minutes before closing time — It was resolved that the charter committee's recommendations for bar prices be adopted and that new prices take effect from Monday, December 3. — It was resolved that the social committee show their appreciation to the band at the Christmas Party — Nominations for non-RSA membership has been opened up to 20 names.

* * *

Picton Women's Section News

November 13 was our final meeting this year, although not the end of our activities. We had a very busy meeting as there was the transport arrangements for those going to the Renwick and Blenheim Christmas parties to coordinate, the final preparations for our own Christmas entertainment evening, and tentative arrangements for the judging of a shop-day article when we re-commence our meetings next February 12. All this was in addition to our usual monthly business.

It was something of a baptism by fire for our

vice-president June Ireland, who was in the chair in the absence of Sybil Phillips, and she carried out a difficult meeting with flying colours.

Once again, Shorty Wilkins was the successful raffle winner.

The Renwick party was again a great success and we must mention the terrific supper. Our own party went with a swing and Eileen Taylor (Binnie) proved yet again what a wonderful compere she is between the acts. Here are some of her examples of her "gems":

"The world is full of willing people — those willing to work and the rest willing to let them . . . All men are cast in the same mould, but some are mouldier than others . . . Don't brag about your ancestors — instead, give your descendants something to brag about . . . Middle-age is when the broad mind and the narrow waist start to exchange places . . . A youngsters hardest job is to learn good manners without seeing any."

Thanks to all our girls involved in any way in making the party so good.

The Waikawa Bay Play Centre have again invited us to their Christmas party on Tuesday December 11 in our social room and we are looking forward to that. Also, some of our members will be attending the Blenheim Christmas party.

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DRY CLEANING:

In by 10am ----- Out by 2pm

We extend our sympathy to the relatives of our member Phyll Russell who passed away after illness. Phyll was made an honorary member about 18 months ago, a position she valued.

It was good to see our member Hetty Gibb back with the Westport visitors. Our section members helped out with the catering side and I hear the farewell luncheon on Sunday received high praise.

As there will be no Crossfire in January, I wish all my Picton fellow women's section members and club members an enjoyable Christmas and New Year season (especially Clive).

Happy holidays — JOAN M. TAYLOR.

FIGHTING THE TURKS

Extracts from a letter sent home by Lance Corporal J. F. Rudd, who was wounded in Gallipoli in August, 1915, returned to the field and was again wounded in the battle of El Romani in August, 1916. For some time he was on the dangerously ill list, and wrote this account of his experiences at El Romani prior to his

return to new Zealand. Mr Rudd now lives in Otago Street, Picton.

There was great excitement the day we hopped away to meet the Turks. We were given an hour to prepare, and then away. We engaged the enemy on August 4, in the act of surrounding one of our advanced camps, and we gave them "fits," and at evening we had them completely beaten . . . they streamed out of their trenches by the hundred; I understand that over 1000 prisoners were taken in our sector, and altogether over 3000 were taken that day. It was a good day's work and I am very pleased that I was there to do my whack in the fight. They tell me we are the first mounted machine-gun detachment to go into mounted action, and as my gun was the first one to be sent up I had the privilege of firing the first shot.

It is a hair-raising business galloping over a battle swept zone into a position. We lost several horses, but not one man until afterwards. I am afraid T. McCahon, of Waddington, was mortally wounded whilst tending the gun. We had in our section three other men wounded — that, for the day, completed our casualties.

Next day, Saturday, in conjunction with infantry, we attacked a Turkish position. We met with strong resistance and had a very warm time. However, our infantry were in next morning.

Lieutenant Harper had his horse shot from

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underneath him and we had several other horses killed. We had a good bit of luck that day.

Sergeant Barr and I decided to shift down to another mound with our gun. We had no sooner got to our new mound when our old position was hit with three shells. We had evidently been "spotted."

Dusk came on and we withdrew. We had an exciting time getting back to the horses and it seemed a miracle none of us were blown up. The Turks pumped shrapnel in by the score. F. Smith was shot through the heart while helping to strap my gun on the pack saddle.

We went through our usual performance of watering and feeding, had a sleep for an hour or so, and next day away off further on.

But we did nothing — for which most of us were thankful as we had precious little time to eat and sleep.

Monday was practically the same. Our little lot was in reserve. We lay back in a gully all day and I counted 82 high explosives in an hour and a quarter, directed at our battery.

On Tuesday we advanced again and found the enemy had evacuated their main position. I took one or two "snaps" there, and also have the copies of two letters the German officers left for us. We went further on and camped for the night only a few miles from where the enemy had a strong position, and in the morning we attacked.

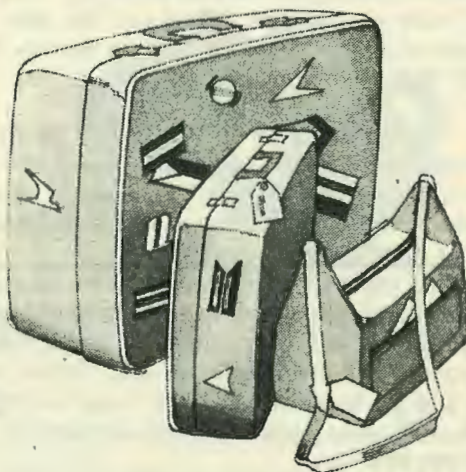
They were ready for us. Canterbury seemed to be unlucky and were just in line where the Turkish gunners seemed to direct most of their shells. Their machine-gunners got round where they could just enfilade our particular gully and I can assure you it was not healthy to lift one's head. I had my hat whisked off by a bullet and it was only the hot sun that made me put it back on again.

High explosives landed as close as 10 yards, and only the fact of it being soft sand saved us from being blown to atoms a score of times.

Barr and I had quite made up our minds that it was to be the finish of us. It was while firing in this position that I got knocked out. Sergeant Barr did the field dressing while No. 2 carried on with the gun. I had the pleasure of lying there for another hour, expecting anything at any moment. M. Harper was wounded a few yards off.

The order was given to retire and we carried it out, though God only knows how the four of us got away without being hit. When we got back to our horses, my pony was missing, and I was keenly distressed to think that my old companion had probably been killed. They put me on an old wounded horse and on my way

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Ready to listen—Ready to help.

back, Neil, on of the signallers, joined me. After riding beside him for some time I gradually woke up to the fact that it was my nag he was on. You can imagine my delight.

The wounded soldier described the experience of travelling back to the railhead for hospital on camel-back — a journey which occupied 12½ hours — as a very trying ordeal.

Copies of the German officers' letters mentioned in the narrative are as follows:

1 "We regret that we are not only German troupes, and have cavalerie as the Englishmen. Then we would gain the play shirtenly. Now we will wish you will not follow too fast into the Trieste desert. — 10th CM Cannon Battery, 5-6, VIII 16."

2 "Here was a German artillery observation poste and had seen all the movements of the English Cavalerie. Lt. Alsop, of the AMR, now prisoner of war, a gentleman, bread eaten in our battery."

Did you hear about the farmer who asked his neighbour for the use of his bull. Much to his disgust the cows were completely ignored. When he complained, his neighbour said, "Which day did you get him? "Wednesday," was the reply. "Oh, well, that explains it. Wednesday is his cowless day."

ON THE MARKET NOW

R.S.A. Pocket Monograms, at Bar, \$3.50.

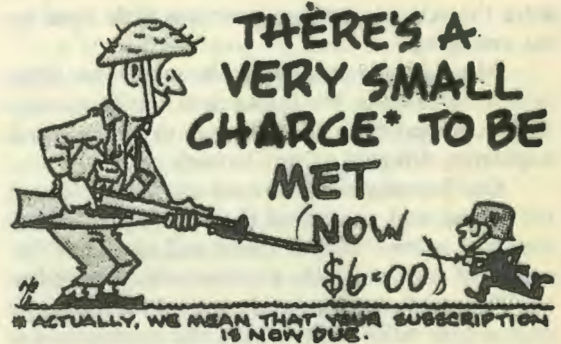
R.S.A. Cufflinks, from the Bar, \$3.30.

R.S.A. Ballpoint Pens, from the Bar, 35c each.

R.S.A. Pennants, from the Bar, \$1.25.

Cigarette Lighters, at the Bar, \$1.85.

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it from Bill will never know. It turned out that the chap was the Padre, the Rev. Taylor.

They spent some time training (and painting the stones in the tent lines white). This was late 1914 and when they were told to blacken their highly-polished buttons and stones were issued to sharpen bayonets, they knew they were off somewhere.

Sure enough, off to the Suez Canal at Ismailia. This was where they first went into action against the Turks trying to cross the canal. The British forces were on the banks looking down on the Turks crossing in pontoons and the Turks didn't have a show. Some 600 of them were killed and only one from Bill's unit. After this action they were back again to Cairo.

They again went into training and were inspected at one stage by Major-General Godley, accompanied on the saluting base by his wife. Bill said it was stinking hot as they marched past with fixed bayonets, and they weren't allowed to touch their water bottles. They had to march past again a second time as Mrs Godley didn't think they did it well enough the first time. One thousand of the troops, who by the way, were wearing serge uniforms, had to be transported back to camp after the parade, completely exhausted.

Inoculations and vaccinations began next, so they knew they were off again and all thought it would be to France. They were embarked on a ship called the Lemnof. Next they arrived at Gallipoli and all they could see and hear as they approached was rifle fire — the Australians were already ashore. The time was about 10am on the 25th of April, 1915.

There were so many wounded the doctor's couldn't cope. He met Simpson and his donkey while he was there — he was really quite a nice fellow.

Bill was in the Engineers and spent a lot of time backwards and forwards to the transports bringing ashore barbed wire and other equipment — always under fire. He was at Quinn's Post where trenches were only 15ft apart and it was possible to talk to the Turks.

Bill and his mates decided to make jam tin bombs as it was impossible to stick your head above the trenches without getting it shot off. Jam tins were used containing two ounces of enamel, a fuse and a detonator. They started using four inches of fuse, but this gave the Turks time to throw the bombs back, so then they went on to instantaneous fuse and no more bombs came back. The bombs were filled with broken glass, stones, chopped up barbed wire and anything else they could find. Next thing the Turks covered their trenches with railway sleepers and that put a finish to the bombing. Until some bright lad decided to make Molotov cocktails with petrol and followed up the fire with bombs.

Next move on the Turks part was to cover the railway sleepers with earth and so it went on with counter measures against new inventions all the way.

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

BETWEEN THE WARS 1919—39.

The first two years after the Great War, were years of little activity in the Territorials. During 1919, camps were being used as demobilisation centres for returning drafts and there was little public interest in home forces.

The 1st (Canterbury) Regiment was under the command of Lt Col J. Murphy, VD.

The 2nd (South Canterbury) Regiment was commanded by Lt Col N. R. Wilson.

The 12th (Nelson and Marlborough) Regiment was commanded by Lt Col C. B. Brereton, who had gone overseas in command of the 12th (Nelson) Coy in 1914 and later commanded the 4th Battalion overseas.

Gazette 83/20 records that Maj Gen E. W. C. Chaytor, KCMG, KCVO, CB was appointed Hon Col of both the 1st (Canterbury) and the 12th (Nelson and Marlborough) Regiments. No gazetting can be traced of Honorary Colonels for the 2nd or 13th Regiments or the name of the Commanding Officer of the 13th.

1921

A major re-organisation took effect on 1st June. Military Districts in NZ were reduced to three, the South Island becoming the Southern Command. Infantry units in the Southern Command were formed into the Southern Infantry Brigade. The eight Regiments were reduced to two, north of the Waitaki River being the Canterbury Regiment and South being the Otago Regiment. Each of these Regiments had two Battalions.

The 1st Battalion, The Canterbury Regiment, had its headquarters in Christchurch and covered the Canterbury province. Lt Col Murphy commanded.

The 2nd Battalion, The Canterbury Regiment, had its Headquarters in Nelson and covered the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast. Lt Col Brereton commanded with Lt J. L. Brooke, NZSC as Adjutant.

Adjutants apparently did not stay long in Nelson in those days. The record shows Lt W. Benzies in 1918, Lt S. J. Gilman in 1919, Lt G. H. Clifton in 1920.

1922

The period of compulsory service was reduced to three years, this lowering greatly the nominal strength of Units. No annual camps were held, however courses of instruction were re-introduced.

1923

On the 1 June, the 2nd Battalions of Canterbury and Otago were established as Regiments, 2 OTAGO became the Southland Regiment and 2 CANT became the Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Regiment. (Gaz 53/23).

The Canterbury Regiment, now with only one territorial Battalion, retained the Cap Badge crest and motto of the 1st (Canterbury) Regiment. The new Regiment was allied with "The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment" and also with "The Durham Light Infantry". The badge of the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regiment was preserved in that it was worn by Cadet units affiliated to Canterbury Regiment and drawn from South Canterbury.

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On 29 September, the 1st Battalion (1 CANT) and the 4th (Cadet) Battalion paraded on Cranmer Square, Christchurch, to receive new Colours. The colours were presented by the Regiment's newly appointed (Gaz 70/23) Hon Col, Col the Hon G. J. Smith CBE, TD. These colours did not bear Great War Battle honours at the time of presentation, the scrolls were not emblazoned until 1930.

Actually the colours had been in New Zealand since 1914. The order for manufacture had been placed with Hobson and Sons, England, by Major General Godley, at the request of the then CO Lt Col G. J. Smith. In order to save payment of Customs Duty, the colours were consigned to the NZ Defence Dept. This cunning move nearly backfired, the Regiment receiving on 9 July 1914 a very terse note from the Director of Equipment, Wellington. Three months of paper war followed before the Customs Duty was waived. The colours had been approved by the King and were strictly in accordance with the requirements of the War Office. Total cost for manufacture and freight was £70.11.6.

The Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Regiment retained Maj Gen Chaytor as Honorary Colonel. He held this appointment until 1939.

The new Regiment had a territorial Battalion (1 NMWC) and affiliated cadet Battalions. Lt Col Brereton carried on as CO but yet another Adjt was appointed, Lt A. de T. Neville NZSC.

The badge adopted was a composition of the 12th and 13th Regimental Badges. A stag passant contained within a circle inscribed with the Regiment's motto "Kai Pono Tonu" over numerals "12 and X111" surmounted by a crown and flanked with fern fronds.

The motto translated as "Faithful Unto Death" or more usually "Be Faithful". The Regiment was allied to the Durham Light Infantry. Although the new badge was adopted at this period, badges were not struck until 1951. The long delay was due, not only to slump and war, but also because the mixture of Roman and Arabic Numerals was considered to be incorrect by Heraldic rules.

1924

Annual Camps were re-introduced. Lt Col C. E. Butcher assumed command of 1 NMWC in July. (Gaz 57/24). There was the yearly change in Adjutant with the appointment of Lt C. S. Duff, NZSC.

1925

An epidemic of spinal meningitis caused the abandonment of camps. Lt Col N. R. Wilson DSO, MC, VD, assumed command of 1 CANT in June (Gaz 49/25). 1 NMWC changed Adjutants. The newcomer LT J. W. Barry, NZSC, was to remain for three years.

1926

In May, Lt Col L. M. Inglis MC assumed command of 1 CANT (Gaz 36/26). He raised Regimental spirit to a very high standard and his standing orders, addresses and short history of the Regiment are still studied nearly fifty years later. As Maj Gen L. M. Inglis, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, VD, ED, he was later one of New Zealand's most famous soldiers.

In August Maj G. H. Gray, MC, assumed command of 1 NMWC (Gaz 59/26). He was promoted to Lt Col in September (Gaz 67/26).

1928

On 10 March at a parade held on Trafalgar Park, Nelson, Colours were consecrated and presented to the Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Regiment by the then Bishop of Nelson, Dr. Sadlier. The colours were purchased by the people of the Regimental area and were dedicated as a memorial to those who had fallen in the Great War. The Regimental Colour was designed by the late Mr William Houliker of Nelson. The parade was held at the conclusion of Annual Camp.

Lt R. J. Eyre, NZSC, was appointed Adjutant 1 NMWC. An appointment he was to hold for a record twelve years.

Annual Camp Locations 1924 - 30

During this period, 1 CANT camped mainly at Burnham with breaks to Glentunnel and the Peninsula. 1 NMWC camped at Appleby, near Nelson, in 1924 but thereafter used the site at Tapawera that had been used by the 12th Regiment. The date was always late February. A large replica of the NMWC badge was made with stones on the hillside overlooking the Tapawera camp and at the commencement of each camp period, the badge was cleared of weeds and whitewashed. (An unsuccessful attempt to find this badge was made in 1970). West Coast Companies were unable to attend Tapawera camps, the cost and difficulty of travel being too great. Instead they travelled by train to Burnham and camped there. This meant that the only contact with the remainder of the Battalion was through officers and NCOs attending courses of instruction.

1930

In May, Lt Col S. D. Mason assumed command of 1 CANT (Gaz 43/30).

In September, Lt Col W. C. Harley assumed command of 1 NMWC (Gaz 67/30).

Compulsory training was abolished.

Battalions were reduced to a volunteer strength of 75, all ranks, and were constituted as cadres.

Far from spoiling the morale of the Regiments, as such a drastic move might have been expected to do, the spirit of comradeship actually flourished. However, the next few years were dreadfully hard ones for the territorial force.

Owing to the depression, finance could only be made available for the absolute essentials. As a consequence there was much improvisation, particularly regarding unit transport. This was the period when the Army was changing from horse-drawn to mechanical transport and commercial vehicles of all sorts were borrowed for camps and exercises.

There was no stipulated limit to transport except the proviso that there must be no cost to the State.

1931

No annual camps were held.

1932

1 NMWC camped at Tapawera. This was only "a bivouac" of five days duration, but for the first time the West-Coast Coys were present. Hereafter, regardless of size, the Unit would always camp as an entity.

1 CANT camped at Kaituna.

1933

Lt Col W. T. Churchward was appointed to command 1 NMWC on 29 April (Gaz 46/33). A fifth (Machine Gun) Coy was added to establishments. 1 CANT camped at Kaituna in 1933, Glentunnel in 1934. Torless Station 1935 and Mt Somers in 1936.

1 NMWC camped each year at Tapawera.

1934

Approval was given for an increase in establishments. Infantry Battalions were allowed to recruit an extra rifle platoon per Company and also a mortar platoon. This meant an increase of 4 officers and 114 other ranks.

1935

Files from both Regiments show that there was a consistent effort to gain recruits. Battalion establishments were again amended and by August 1935, the current organisation was as follows:


Headquarters Wing

No 1 Group

Bn HQ, Signallers, Intelligence Section,
Stretcher Bearers, Orderlies and Batman

No 2 Group

Anti-tank Platoon of 4 Guns

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Never because you are miserable."*

G. K. Chesterton.



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TODAY'S GREAT BEER

AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION

The Cavalry Division in the Crimea

The Crimean War was the last of the old style wars. It was also a complete fiasco from start to finish. Leadership was extremely poor, supplies were non-existent and medical facilities were atrocious.

Some valuable lessons were learnt from this campaign, although it was to take quite a few years for the main lessons to sink in. If the British Army lacked the structure to wage an efficient campaign, the ordinary Tommy certainly didn't lack courage and determination.

All the failures of the Crimea have been recorded in our history books but, naturally enough, many of the worse features have been glossed over. Probably the worst failing in the Crimea, was clashes of personalities, and unfortunately this failing seems to have persisted until the present day.

Nowhere could a more graphic example of personality clashes be found as that that existed in the Cavalry Division in the Crimea.

The Cavalry Division was composed of ten regiments formed into two brigades, the Light Cavalry Brigade and the Heavy Cavalry Brigade. The Division was commanded by Lord George Bingham, 3rd Earl of Lucan. The Heavy Brigade was commanded by Brigadier-General, The Honourable James Scarlett, whilst the Light Brigade had as their leader Brigadier-General James Thomas Brudenel, 7th Earl of Cardigan.

Scarlett was an able cavalry leader, with his head screwed on firmly, but Lord Lucan and Lord Cardigan were quite different kettles of fish. Cardigan's youngest sister had married Lord Lucan, and the marriage had been far from happy. Cardigan blamed Lucan for the trouble, and thereafter only spoke to him when he had to.

Just to make the issue a bit more difficult, Cardigan's second in command was Colonel Lord George Paget, who was certainly no great admirer of Cardigan's. Cardigan had been accused of having an affair with the wife of George Paget's brother, William. This affair was a "put up" job if ever there was one.

As if this situation wasn't bad enough, Cardigan had the habit of approaching the Army Commander, Lord Raglan, with never a thought of doing things the normal way by going through his immediate superior, Lord Lucan.

As can be imagined, military discipline suffered through these events, the anti-Cardigan faction blaming him for everything. But what sort of man was this Lord Cardigan?

The question is an extremely hard one to answer in a few words. He was an excellent horseman, a good cavalry tactician, a stickler to etiquette and regulations and utterly without fear. On the debit side, he was a regular womanizer (at times very indiscreet) would fight a duel at the drop of a hat (usually winning), was very unpopular with the general public, and regarded by the War Office as a military nuisance. But above all this, Cardigan considered himself as a gentleman, and always followed the code (such as it was) accepted by the gentry.

His last command had been the 11th Hussars, a regiment which Cardigan had brought to the peak of efficiency.

It had cost him £40,000.0.0 to buy the colonels commission of this regiment, and had poured much more of his own funds into it. For instance, when a new horse had to be purchased, Cardigan put in an extra £10 of his own money so that his men would have better than average horses.

But let us get back to the Crimea. The Cavalry Division was hard hit by the climatic conditions, poor accommodation and lack of supplies. Horses in particular suffered badly.

On the 25th October 1854, the Cavalry Division was formed up at Balaclava. Guarding the approaches to the port was one infantry regiment the 93rd (Argyllshire) Highlanders.

The Russians at the end of the North Valley were strongly emplaced, with infantry, cavalry and field artillery in support.

On the seaward side of the valley, the British had constructed redoubts, in which were mounted naval guns. A couple of these redoubts had been over-run during the morning and Lord Raglan was worried about the Russians removing the guns from them. Raglan sent an order to the cavalry division to secure the guns.

His message was simple to say the least, and by its vagueness touched off an incident that was to go down in history as "The Charge of the Light Brigade".

(Continued on Page 34)

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The order was worded as follows — "Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front — follow the enemy and try to prevent the enemy from carrying away the guns — Troop Royal Horse Artillery may accompany — signed R. Airey, Quarter-master General" — The message was brought to Lord Lucan by one Captain Nolan, a regular hot-head with an axe to grind.

Lucan couldn't make heads nor tails of the message. The only guns in front of the cavalry division were the Russian guns at the end of the valley. The guns that worried Raglan were actually on Lucan's right.

Lucan queried the order to which Nolan gave his now famous remark — "There my Lord, there is the enemy, and there are the guns" — pointing directly down the valley. To charge fixed defences without infantry to follow up was against all sound tactics.

Lucan trotted over to Cardigan and issued the order from Raglan to him. Cardigan complained, "There must be some mistake. I shall never be able to bring a single man back". Lucan, probably agreeing with his brother-in-law for the first time, could only say "Orders are orders".

Captain Nolan, lately of the 15th Hussars, trotted up and asked Cardigan if he could take part in the charge. Cardigan again questioned the order, whereby Nolan made his second classical remark — "Is the Light Brigade afraid".

That was too much for Cardigan. The brigade was quickly lined up for the advance.

This didn't take quite as long as would have been normal, but the brigade was well and truly under strength. The full strength of a cavalry regiment at that time was around 680 all ranks, but sickness had reduced the regiments to such an extent that the brigade could only mount 673 men that morning.

As we can see, this was less than 20% of the normal strength.

In the front line were the 17th Lancers, the 13th Light Dragoons and the 11th Hussars. In the second line, commanded by Paget comprised the 4th Light Dragoons and the 8th Hussars.

Up to this point, Lucan and Cardigan had "agreed to agree", but right at the last minute, Lucan had to have a shot at his brother-in-law. He moved the 11th Hussars into the second line, behind the 17th Lancers. In this case he didn't bother to advise Cardigan.

One can smell sour grapes in this move as the 17th Lancers was Lucan's old regiment, whilst the 11th Hussars was Cardigan's.

What a state of affairs. Cardigan's personal trumpeter, Trumpeter Britten, sounded the "Walk" and off went the brigade as if on a ceremonial parade. A nod of the head from Cardigan and Britten sounded "Trott".

At this point Nolan seemed to wake up to himself, perhaps he saw that his hot temper had signed the death warrants of 673 men. From his position in front of the 17th Lancers, he spurred his mount forward and cut across the front toward the actual target.

Whether or not he was trying to alter the course of the brigade, we shall never know, as he was brought down by a shell splinter in his chest.

Cardigan sat on his horse as if on a Royal Escort, never moving his head from the front, and signalled for "Gallop". The troops were now becoming very eager, and the 17th Lancers surged forward of their dressing.

Seeing this from the corner of his eye, Cardigan called out — "Steady the 17th, Steady Captain Morris".

The 17th Lancers were commanded by a captain due to the fact that the colonel of the regiment had frozen to death in the saddle at an earlier parade.

Trumpeter Britten sounded "Charge". The rest is history.

For a mile and a half the horsemen had ridden straight at the field guns, now they charged flat out using sword and lance to full advantage. With Russians on three of the four sides of the valley, it is a wonder that anyone ever reached the guns, let alone got back. As it was, 245 men answered the roll call after the charge, 67% casualties.

The whole affair was watched by the ladies who had accompanied the army to the Crimea. This was the system in those days, when officers wives, and the wives of some of the other ranks, went off to war with their husbands. What a sight they must have seen.

Lucan had intended to make a second charge using the Heavy Brigade, and had in fact started off. Seeing the massacre that had occurred with the Light Brigade, he called off this second charge, and rightly so.

IN TOWN FOR THE DAY?

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No 3 Group

Quartermaster's Staff, Transport Officer and Section, Anti-aircraft Lewis Gunners, Pioneers, Police and Tradesmen.

Rifle Companies

'A', 'B', 'C' each consisting of 4 Platoons. There were 4 Sections to a platoon - 2 rifle and 2 Lewis Gun Sections within a Company were numbered 1 to 16. A full strength platoon numbered 34 all ranks. Within the Battalion rifle platoons numbered from 1 to 12.

Support Company 'D'

Numbers 13, 14 and 15 Platoons were Machine Gun (4 MG's) Number 16 Platoon was Mortar (4 mors) Each Machine Gun Platoon had three limbered wagons carrying 4 guns and 32,000 rounds of ammunition. The Mortar Platoon limbered wagon carried 72 rounds.

The above Organisation totalled 830 all ranks. The strength of 1 NMWC by end of 1935 was 330 all ranks, as compared with 89 all ranks in 1931.

1936

Lt Col H. K. Kippenberger was appointed to Command 1 CANT (Gaz 51/36). As Maj Gen Sir Howard Kippenberger, KBE, CB, DSO and Bar, ED, he was later to become Honorary Colonel of his old Regiment.

It was in 1936, that the Army authorised the introduction of motor-cycle platoons. Southern Command promulgated a three page instruction regarding organisation. The following quote well illustrates the method of equipment procurement.

"When forming the motor-cycle platoon, please ensure that only owners of motor-cycles of suitable type, performance and condition are accepted as recruits. It is also advisable to select popular types, so that eventually a certain amount of uniformity may be achieved".

(To be Continued Next Issue)



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crossword puzzle 13

ACROSS

1. Indian unit of weight
4. Secure
8. Gambling game
12. Pub specialty
13. Above
14. Ridge of hills
15. Refine
17. Beverage
18. Roman poet
19. Laths
20. Blanched
22. Cloak
24. Insects
25. Nightclubs
29. Digit
30. Storms
31. Card game
32. Valued highly
34. German title
35. Performs
36. Heavenly body
37. Pursue
40. Swinging stride
41. Red deer
42. Elaborate cupboard

46. On the sheltered side
47. Sharpen
48. Summit
49. Fruit
50. Roman date
51. Habitual drunkard

DOWN

1. Pouch
2. Hebrew priest
3. Nauseated
4. Firm
5. Eager
6. Turkish cap

7. Before
8. Birdcatcher
9. Continent
10. Rave
11. Native metals
16. US inventor
19. Health resorts
20. Liver paste
21. Presently
22. Enclosures
23. Retired
25. Small carriage
26. Components
27. Ripped

28. Classify
30. Kind of contest
33. Religious festival
34. Bob
36. Secret writings
37. Fellow
38. Healthy
39. Region
40. Smooth
42. Greek letter
43. Fishing pole
44. Menagerie
45. Likely

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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(Answer on Page 16)

