

VOL. 2, NO. 7

MAY 1980

CROSSFIRE



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EDITORIAL

The building improvements as recommended by the special building committee were given the green light at the annual general meeting in March. Based on the plan submitted by the building committee and Dominion Breweries, an architect has been engaged to draw up plans and specifications for stage one — the provision of storage facilities off the Pavilion Lounge to provide space to stack the chairs, tables, piano, etc., which currently restrict available floor space for activities such as indoor bowls. Part of this addition will provide a toilet and wash basin with outside access for the use of outdoor bowlers when the club premises are closed. It is the hope of the executive that the cost of this addition can be met from the current account to obviate the need to break a term deposit or raise a mortgage. It is also hoped to employ volunteer labour under the direction of Wally Boddington to carry out the majority of the work. The foundations will be the most critical part of the job and it is intended to have this work carried out by a registered builder. For most of you who may have forgotten about this project, the storage area/toilet will be situated on the concrete inside the eastern gate. When this task has been completed, stage two, alteration of the kitchen will be carried out.

We haven't heard too many complaints about Anzac Day arrangements — the bar turnover was double last year's receipts, so in spite of increased cost of liquor, there must have been more people at the clubrooms.

Inside this issue you will read that Flaxbourne is the first of our sub-branches to go into recess. It is the policy of the executive that such decisions are entirely up to the branch and no influence will be imposed on any sub-branch to follow the example of Flaxbourne.

Members of the executive attended the regional conference at Motueka on May 24. The main item of discussion at these conferences is the list of remits for the Dominion conference in June. Incidentally, attendance at regional conferences is paid for entirely by the members attending.

1980 XMAS DRAW

By request, the Christmas Draw (Monster Raffle) is continuing again this year. Tickets are 20c each or five for \$1 and all money collected is spent in prizes.

On December 6 we will be holding the draw for prizes.

Tickets are on sale on Thursday and Friday nights from Alex Fry and his team or can be purchased at the office during office hours.



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SATURDAY, JUNE 21
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NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Marlborough RSA:

775610 R. B. WEBB
659386 L. B. SAUL
23020448 B. HARRIS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been rather a busy month, and with Anzac Day being in it, made it a memorable one. This was mainly because of the visit of our RSL guests John Pender, from Ingham (near Cairns) and Mr and Mrs Doug Jackson, from Cowra (N.S.W.). The after-parade function was a resounding success, mainly through the efforts of Paul Brodie and the help that he enlisted. A big majority of the people that I have spoken to are lavish in their praise of how the afternoon went.

The volunteers in the kitchen did a good job and so did the ladies serving the food. It would seem that a lot more people will be attending next year, but where we are going to accommodate them is another story. No-one left the lounge once the entertainment started. I noticed many people who stood in the doorways watching and listening because they were unable to get seats. Although when empty the Pavilion Lounge looks spacious, as soon as the tables and chairs are set up and people seated, there isn't too much room to move around at a concert like that.

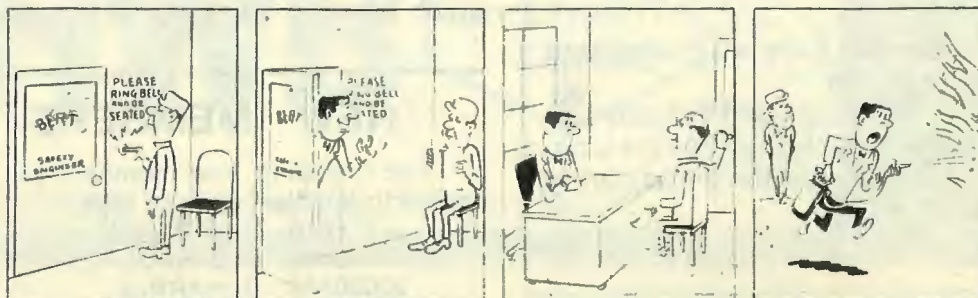
Our visitors attended the Dawn Parade at Picton where they were treated to the usual hospitality one expects from our members down there. Following that they also paraded at the ceremony in Blenheim. They told me how impressed they had been with the depth of the welcome shown to them by all. The Mayor, members of the RNZAF and notably members and spouses of the RSA all got together to shower them with the usual Marlborough hospitality.

I think all concerned should give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done. Special thanks also go to our guest speakers who by all accounts did an excellent job around the district giving the addresses at well-attended parades.

We are now underway with a schedule for the proposed additions and alterations. Plans are being prepared for us and should be back before us shortly. This will enable us to get moving on this project. The sub-committees have now settled down to the jobs in hand. A cabaret is to be held on June 21 but more publicity will be given to that and the follow-up of the social entertainment.

You will also notice that the price of jugs, etc., has risen again. It is a thankless task being on the Charter Committee but rest assured, Bob Fidler and the others have your interests at heart. Although some of you may think we should carry the increase, remember our building programme will have to be paid for and the day-to-day running costs continue to increase.

Anything that can be done to hold rising prices is being done. Unfortunately, a lot of things go up over which we have no control.



BLENHEIM WOMEN'S SECTION

A very wet afternoon affected the attendance at our April social afternoon and only about 45 members had the privilege of hearing Mrs P. Ballinger speak on the Vietnamese refugees. She spoke on the tragedies and atrocities suffered by these people and referred in particular to the family who settled in Blenheim for a few months. Our thanks to Mrs Ballinger and I'm sure our members are more aware of the plight of these brave people.

Poppy and Anzac Day: All members of the women's section, where possible, are asked to assist in the annual Poppy Day Appeal and the making of sprays for the servicemen's graves at Omaka and Fairhall. These are tasks for which our women's section feel honoured to take responsibility and in which the RSA menfolk rely on our members.

Sadly this year, only a minority of our 200 members were able to help and president Mrs Kennington gratefully thanks all members and the public who kindly assisted with poppy sales, flowers and sprays.

On Anzac Day, our president represented the women's section and placed

our wreath on the Cenotaph.

Many members joined their husbands and friends at the clubhouse and all commend the RSA for a pleasant function.

—JO ALLAN

WOMEN'S SECTION INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

The season opened on April 16 and will close on September 24. The membership is 87 and new members would be welcomed from our women's section.

The president is Mrs U. Taylor and the secretary-treasurer is Mrs B. Boddington.

On April 23 — our 30th anniversary — a tray was played for. Four mats were in use and all members enjoyed the day.

Winners were: Lorna King (s), Grace Wiblin (3), Olga Bayne (2) and Ivy Enright (lead).



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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

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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.

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FLAXBOURNE REPORT

Due to the death of members and retirements into town, the Flaxbourne sub-branch of the Marlborough RSA has reluctantly decided to go into recess. The decision was not taken lightly, with options such as amalgamation with Awatere or East Coast being considered first.

Remaining members will make their individual decisions whether to join with Awatere or link directly with Blenheim.

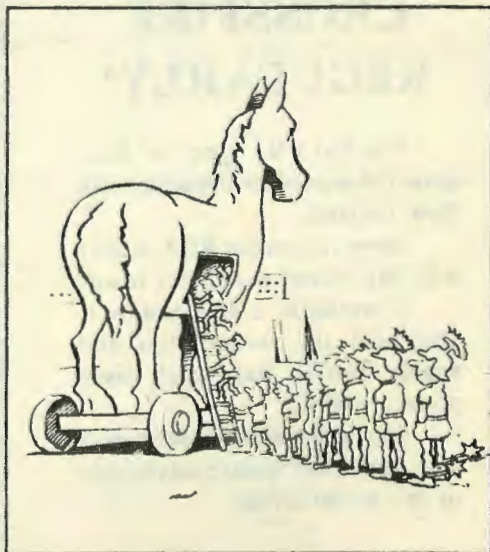
It is the intention of members living in the Flaxbourne district to continue with the Anzac Day memorial service at Ward, as this has continued to be well supported by local residents. The needs of widows of ex-service-men from the area will also be watched over.

Anzac Day Service, 1980: Mr Don Moore, guest speaker at the Flaxbourne Anzac memorial service, gave a young person's point of view to a gathering of over 50 in the Ward Town Hall.

Mr Moore expressed the feeling that with the present unsettled world situation it made one wonder whether or not those who died and who were remembered especially on Anzac Day, had given their lives in vain.

He believed that, if we wanted the sort of

world that young New Zealanders in the past had died to keep safe for us, we could not rely on science, modern technology or political philosophies alone, but needed to put our trust in God, and practice Christian principles.



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50 Years of the "Last Post"

The following article appeared in "Het Volk" on February 10, 1979, written by C. Linseele, journalist for this Flemish newspaper, in which he recalls that this moving ceremony takes place each evening under the majestic arch of the Menin Gate (a reproduction of Will Longstaff's painting of the Menin Gate is hung in our clubrooms).

Two or more members of the Ieper Fire Brigade have been doing this for 50 years. Traffic is halted by the police and although it only lasts a couple of minutes there are always people present to hear it — the townsfolk of Ieper, a passer-by stopping by chance, drivers who have been halted to allow the ceremony to take place and tourists, of which there are many thousands during the summer. All are impressed by this tribute to the 250,000 British dead of the 1914-18 war who found their last resting place in the stretch of the Western Front of which Ieper was the centre.

The first time that the Last Post echoed around the Menin Gate was on Sunday, July 24, 1927, when this British Memorial to the missing of the First World War was officially opened by Lord Plumer in the presence of King Albert of the Belgians. On the walls of the monument were inscribed the names of 54,896 soldiers of the British Commonwealth who died as a consequence of war, but whose remains were never found or identified. The Commissar of Police at the time, Mr P. Van den Braembussche conceived the idea shortly afterwards of arranging for a daily tribute to take place.

A committee, of which the Chief of the Fire Brigade was also a member, developed the plan further and it was agreed that two or more members of the fire brigade were to sound the Last Post beneath the Menin Gate. This took place between July 1 and October 1, 1928. In 1929 — 50 years ago now — there began the almost uninterrupted series of daily acts of remembrance. From May, 1940, until September, 1944, for reasons which need no explanation, the sounding was discontinued. The tribute was however continued during the above period by the Last Post Committee of Brookwood, Surrey, England, and Ieper still get annual visits from those who remain in this organisation.

On the very day that Ieper was liberated, September 6, 1944, by a Polish armoured division, the ceremony re-commenced and has been carried out daily ever since.

At one minute to eight, the traffic is stopped, and in almost total silence — in the background the town's traffic can be vaguely heard — the Last Post is sounded, rebounding off the panels bearing the thousands of names. A few moments later the traffic rushes through the Menin Gate — until the next evening at eight.

No intelligent woman ever wanted her husband to understand her. In fact, the whole object of her life is to make sure that he doesn't.

The last word in an argument is what a wife has. Anything a husband has to say after that is the beginning of another argument.

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NATIONAL EX-P.O.W's GOLF TOURNAMENT, EASTER 1980

This tournament was held at the Marlborough Golf Club's course at Fairhall and provided a weekend of golf and good fellowship for the golfing P.O.W's and their wives.

An informal get-together on Friday night was enlivened by two sketches by our old friends and entertainers Ces dellow and George Sutherland. Saturday and Sunday were given over to the serious business of golf.

The following is the list of results:

Senior Men (1-17): 36 hole gross, R. Nettle (Waihi) 160; J. Baxter (Wanganui) 167. 36 hole nett: P. Lile (New Plymouth) 137; — Aekins (Lower Hutt) 146. 36 hole stableford: J. Lang (Auckland) 75, J. Gibb (Rangiora) 67.

Saturday: 18 hole gross, J. Kinder (Marlborough) 84; nett, M. Priestley (Whangaparoa) 72; stableford, C. Dodds (Papatoetoe) 34.

Sunday: 18 hole gross, A. P. Cusdin (Stratford) 86; nett, J. Hill (Wanganui) 74; stableford, G. Berryman (Wanganui) 31. Nearest the pin: Saturday, C. Peterson (Tara-dale); Sunday, J. Lang. Nearest the pin second shot: Saturday, J. Baxter; Sunday, C. Peterson.

Team of Four: D. Henderson (Levin), R. Coleman (Wanganui), J. Lang, J. Gyde (Whangarei) 264.

Best Gardener: T. Brooks (Wanganui).

Junior Men (18-36): 36 hole gross, F. Corlett (Hamilton) 180; B. Hill (Rarangi) 185. 36 hole nett, C. Peterson 143; D. Miller (Marlborough) 147. Stableford, R. Coleman (Wanganui) 67, C. Shaw (Wanganui) 65.

Saturday: 18 hole gross, R. Pinkham (Pictoon) 92; nett, L. Beros (Hikutaia) 75; stableford, J. Gyde 32.

Sunday: 18 hole gross, H. MacMillan (Waihi) 89; nett, A. Scoones (Marlborough) 71; stableford, J. Greatbatch (Napier) 31.

Ladies: 36 hole gross, B. Henderson (Levin) 166, E. Mason (Napier) 190; nett, D. Beros 151, M. Corlett (Hamilton) 156; stableford, A. Kinder (Marlborough) 60, V. Cusdin (Cambridge) 58.

Saturday: 18 hole gross, T. Shaw (Wanganui) 98, nett, J. Scoones (Marlborough) 76; stableford, V. Cusdin (Stratford) 25.

Sunday: 18 hole gross, E. MacMillan (Waihi) 100; nett, B. Gyde (Whangarei) 77;

stableford, I. Priestley (Whangaparoa) 27.

Nearest the pin: Saturday, D. Beros; Sunday, A. Kinder; longest drive: Saturday, and Sunday: A. Kinder.

Team of Four: B. Henderson (Levin), T. Shaw (Wanganui), J. Coleman (Wanganui), D. Beros (Hikutaia) 208.

Best Gardener: L. Brannigan (Ellesmere).



AND THEN THERE WAS THE CALLER WHO KNOCKED AT THE WOMAN'S DOOR . . .

"I'm collecting for the Ashton Villa Football Association's Junior Boys Brass Band Accident and Insurance Fund."

"You're what?"

"I'm collecting for the Ashton Villa Football Association's Junior Boys . . ."

"Speak oop, I can't 'ear ya."

(Much louder): "I'm collecting for the Ashton Villa Football Association's . . . aw, booger."

Walks off down path through open gate.

"Shut gate," she calls.

"Booger gate," says he.

"Yes," she calls, "and booger Ashton Villa Football Association's Junior Boys Brass Band Accident and Insurance Fund, too!"



LAST POST

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73090 S. R. THOMPSON
10595 J. H. WALTON
10728 W. J. BOWERS
21958 H. M. MURDOCH
2879 D. CHECKLEY

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



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AS WE WHO ARE LEFT DID NOT
FORGET THEM NEVER OR BE
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PICTON BRANCH NEWS

As can be expected, the most important event of the year in our club is Anzac Day, and this year saw as big a parade at dawn as ever. The Blenheim-based Territorials once again commanded by Sgt John Bull, provided the guard at the Memorial steps with a crew off HMNZS Paea, the Wellington-based Naval Reserves, following the parade of returned servicemen. Making up the remainder of the large parade were Guides, Brownies, Sea Scouts and Cubs. The official counter (Jim Taylor) provided these figures: RSA 103, Navy 15, Territorials 6, 2 Australian Anzac delegates, 45 Sea Scouts and Cubs and 25 Guides and Brownies with about 30 members of the public. The service was conducted by the Revs Stacey Golder and Fred Gregg, and our president, Jim Maxwell briefly addressed the parade. At the conclusion of the parade all who had braved the elements were invited to the RSA clubrooms to enjoy another very much appreciated breakfast, which as has become custom, was supplied by the ladies of the Waikawa Playcentre. Not to be forgotten though, was our own loyal band of ladies section members and a special mention to Joan Taylor and family who arrived at 0445 hours to start the necessary warming up and laying our process. Many thanks to all the ladies involved. For obvious reasons I won't name them but to give you an idea of our ladies keenness on Anzac Day I give an example. Doris Parfitt, who is very ill in hospital, was very concerned that she had offered to help lay out the breakfast and wouldn't be able to make it. Daughter Gloria Yarrall came over from the North Island to visit mum and of course readily agreed to put mum at ease by volunteering her services instead. Little thoughts like those are rarely recognised, but thanks to Crossfire, this time we are able to say "thanks for the effort Gloria and thanks to Dorrie, but more important, Get well soon dear."

Another happy chapter of the day was a bucket collection which raised \$65 for the new Waikawa Playcentre building. Before I get shot down I would like to add, for the benefit of those who

couldn't (or wouldn't) make it, Picton turned on the most glorious weather, easily the clearest and calmest morning of the past decade. Unfortunately there weren't many players or stayers to go on to the parade in Blenheim, but as no doubt is covered in this issue, it was a very worthwhile visit. and on behalf of the half-dozen from Picton may I say thank you and congratulations to Marlborough, it was a very enjoyable function.

Undoubtedly the best entertainment provided on Anzac Day was in our own club from 8pm onwards when a group calling themselves by the most appropriate title of "The Harlots" performed in more ways than providing excellent music (or could it be that the strain of the day was catching up with me?). It certainly sounded alright, but one look at the "Harlots" was enough to turn up the noses of the most avid music fans. One ugly drunken Harlot, who was trying to sing, looked a lot like Ross Fredericks, without any teeth in its mouth and all plastered with goopy lipstick. The horrible thing had the audacity to kiss me! Yuk!!!

There was another big heifer also, plastered up to the nines with make up. I couldn't catch its name, but that one kept trying to sing the swan song. On the drums the one they called Rexina looked as if it would be just as good at flipping omelets, while the elegant Noeline blushed all night behind \$8000 worth of piano accordion.

Items from the Committee: Executive, 10/4/80. It was resolved to offer free of charge the upstairs lounge to the Marlborough Radio Save a Life Campaign if required for demonstrations. A notice of motion to cancel the rule re postage of ballot papers, is to be displayed on the noticeboard prior to the AGM. The social committee sought sanction to advertise socials in shop windows. This was approved. Billiards Ltd are to be approached re changes to the rules of snooker (if any) and the secretary was authorised to try and arrange cartage of coal in bulk.

On May 5 for the first time, the indoor bowlers were able to play on the new floor. First impressions are very encouraging, although the author did get the impression that anything was better than what they had. The consensus of opinion was that it was very commendable and promises for better bowls.

This then brings alterations to a conclusion and everyone I hope will join me in congratulating all concerned for making our club a bigger and brighter place. No more names than are necessary, but a vote of thanks should go to our President Jim Maxwell, who carried on to finish the job on a voluntary basis when our funds had dried up. Of course, there are many more, and from all your clubmates—thank you all.

On Friday May 2 Allan Swan's group turned on the entertainment to herald the sanding of the floor (the square where we dance) and as usual those who attended had a wonderful evening. A person moaned at me recently, that more notice should be given when these guys are performing, and for the benefit of those who think the same, it must be remembered that our musicians play primarily for the love of music, the benefit of the club and for the enjoyment of members who happen to be supporting the club that night. They do not play for financial gain and as the majority are shift workers, it is almost impossible to work to a timetable. Obviously, if you would like to hear them play, the answer is to attend the club on Friday and Saturday nights and if they are playing you can be assured of a very enjoyable evening.

We also have a social evening upstairs once a month, with Des York and his band, who turn on a completely different type of music, but nonetheless enjoyable.

In conclusion may I get a plug in for the ex-Navalmen's Association who will hold a mid-winter social on one of the shortest days of the year, Saturday, June 21, 1980, in the upstairs lounge. Members and friends are invited for the nominal fee of \$2 per person. Des York's band and good supper.

WISEWAY I.G.A.

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

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N.Z. MILITARY AIRCRAFT 1913-1977

By David Duxbury, Ross Dunlop, Ross Macpherson and Ross Ewing



An R.N.Z.A.F. "Kittyhawk" on an airfield
"somewhere in the Pacific."

DURING the 65 years that New Zealand has maintained military aviation, nearly 2800 individual aircraft have been taken on charge to equip its flying units. The majority of these aircraft, some 2360, were received during the 1939-45 war and in the three months immediately preceding that conflict. For the period 1913-1938, only some 94 aircraft were procured for military aviation, which can be compared with the 337-odd aircraft put into service since 1945.

The origin of aircraft purchased provides an interesting commentary on the shift in strategy and capacity of the major Western allies during and after the Second World War. Up to the early 1960s, all of New Zealand's military aircraft were procured from the United Kingdom, if one is prepared to overlook the comparatively brief period and circumstances of the Second World War.

The sheer inability of the British aircraft industry to meet fully the enormous demands placed on it during the earlier stages of the conflict, coupled with the Joint

Chiefs of Staff control and allocation of all Allied war production from 1942 onwards, saw to it that by 1945 all RNZAF combat units were equipped almost exclusively with American aircraft.

However because of lend-lease requirements and the trading ties between Britain and New Zealand, these aircraft were removed from service as soon as suitable British aircraft became available in the early post-war period, although a general lack of finance and a realistic appraisal of the situation saw to it that such types as the

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Ex-Malayan Assn News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello there, ex-Malayans: Well another Anzac Day has gone by and from the comments I have heard I think Paul Brodie deserves a medal for the way in which he organised the afternoon's programme. I would like to thank all of you who paraded — it is pleasing to see our numbers increasing each year.

Dave Porteous is doing a great job organising the garage sale and its amazing the goodies he's rounded up. No way is he going to find a garage big enough and the whisper is that he's going to hire QEII Park. The date for the sale will be fixed at our next meeting and I urge each and everyone of you to get behind Dave and give him the support he deserves.

Finally, get your No. 1's to the drycleaners and be prepared to shout mum a hairdo as negotiations are currently underway for a branch dinner and this will also be discussed on May 28.

See you at the meeting.

BOB FIDLER.

WAR SERVICE PENSION

A further move to gain War pension Rights for Ex-Malayan Servicemen is currently being undertaken by our national executive. The case is being put together by vice-president Jim Perry in conjunction with the Rotorua and Bay of Plenty RSA.

★ ★ ★

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 old woman.

"You two", she said, "would you like to come home with me?" After a hasty consultation, they said they would be delighted and she took them to her house, gave them a good meal, and showed them to the guest room. In a few moments 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.

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

★ ★ ★

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Dave McCallum Reports From Rarotonga

HELLO TO ALL AT THE MARLBOROUGH RSA:

Anzac Day is quite an event here in Rarotonga, especially for the youth, who attend the main parade in full force. Firstly, there was the dawn parade at 6.30am. Returned men fell in and marched about 30 metres to the front of the Cenotaph which is in the main administration area of Avarua, the main commercial area on the north side of the island. Proceedings opened with a remarkably brief prayer (by Raro standards), given by one of the leaders of the Boys Brigade who were holding a camp on the island. We then recited "They shall not grow old, etc.", a wreath was laid, a bugle call sounded and it was all over.

Then the returned men (all 17 of us) repaired to the Reef Hotel for breakfast, complete with appropriately laced coffee. I'd already had breakfast before going to the parade but managed to cope with steak, eggs, sausages and chips, and more coffee and toast.

The main parade commenced with a fall-in on the road in front of the Christian Church about 9.40. The road into the church (about 150m) was lined on both sides with members of the various youth organisations who came to attention and saluted as our party (by this time down to 11) marched to the church entrance, most of us in step, I was anyway!!! We went into the church in single file and as the congregation stood we were ushered into the front row. The young ones filled the church and it was standing room only. The eight standard-bearers brought their flags forward to the altar and the minister and a Boys Brigade officer took the flags and arrayed them suitably. The 10am service started at 10.25 and was mostly in Maori, with the NT reading and part of the address in English. The choir sang beautifully and with tremendous volume. At the end of the service we led the way out and were escorted to the main road by service group officers. There more of them than there were of us!

There was a little wait while the childrens groups formed up (there were about 600 in their various uniforms) and we then led the parade off down to the Cenotaph with the Boys Brigade band following us. We had to stop a couple of times to let the children catch up with us. By now our numbers had grown to 15 and we marched to the front of the Cenotaph. Our parade commander was Percy Henderson, president of the RSA. There was full participation by the main denominations on the island. The respective ministers all took part in the prayers and readings, which were mercifully brief as it was getting hot standing there in a suit.

Then came the laying of the wreaths and what a difference again. Each person laying a wreath stopped in front of the small RSA contingent and saluted, either by bowing the head or an actual salute in the case of scouts, etc. The wreath was laid and the salute repeated. Very dignified, but with about 30 wreaths to be laid it took a long time and it got hotter. Finally came the benediction in Maori and the parade came to attention and we marched off and dismissed. The Cook Island Maoris love ceremony and music and this fulfilled their wishes.

I'm pleased I went but was pleased to get home and change and have a cold beer. Suits, ties and 30deg heat don't go together, especially as we stood out in the sun.

Best wishes to all club members and staff, and will see you all next year. Have a happy winter.

Dakota, Harvard, Mustang and a few Avengers were retained for post-war service.

During the 1960s a marked swing to American types developed due to the strategic realities expounded in the Anzus pact, and the diminishing British presence in New Zealand's strategic area. This policy has been continued to the present day, although several British types have been put into service, as well as a number of locally-produced basic trainers.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO WORLD WAR ONE

Despite the vigorous campaigning of Mr Henry Wigram, of Christchurch (later Sir Henry Wigram), in the Legislative Council, Government interest in military aviation in the pre-Great War era could only be described as indifferent.

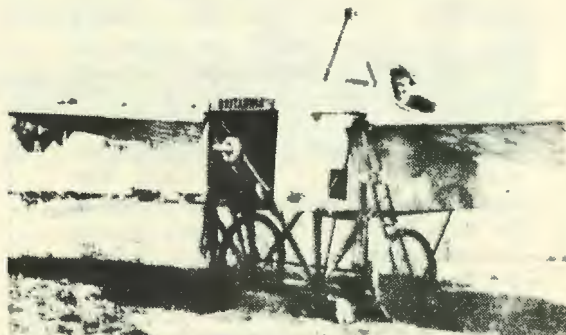
Aeroplanes of the period were expensive, unreliable, not terribly fast, incapable of lifting much more than their pilots and fuel load, and they were rather dangerous. They also spewed oil and frightened the horses. This general opinion (which was, of course, world-wide) also seems to have been held by New Zealand's military chiefs. But they did, nevertheless, see certain uses for such machines, and in 1911 they secured Government approval to send several officers and NCOs to England to learn all about aeroplanes.

In 1912, Lieut. W. W. A. Burn was also sent to England to train as a military pilot at what is now the Central Flying School at Upavon. But the military were not going to rush out and buy an aeroplane just yet.

"Until next year, when the training is more advanced and our expenditure has become more normal, I do not propose to make any definite recommendations or incur any expenditure in connection with the purchase of aeroplanes. We must learn to walk before we attempt to fly," said the annual report of the Defence Department for

1911-12.

However, an aeroplane did arrive shortly afterwards, a little prematurely it seems as the Government had nowhere to put it, no one to fly it and no trained men to service or repair it. This aeroplane, the Bleriot XI two-seat monoplane Britannia, was presented to the New Zealand Government by the Imperial Air Fleet Committee, a group of patriotic British businessmen dedicated to "strengthening" the resources of the Empire in aerial craft." Britannia was only the first of many aircraft which the committee planned to present to Dominion Governments to serve as the basis for flying corps in these countries, and thus its hope of a great "Imperial Air Fleet."



NZ's first military aeroplane, the Bleriot Monoplane Britannia.

(To be continued in next issue)

Some time after a US Navy serviceman had finished a tour of duty in the Far East, he received the following cable back home in the States:

"You gone six months me gone seven months, shall I carry Harry or Hari-Kari? Suki."

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FAREWELL - AND GOOD LUCK! MALTA GC

NEARLY TWO CENTURIES of dramatic history closed on 1 April with an exchange of 21-gun salutes as the last British servicemen to be stationed in Malta sailed out of Grand Harbour aboard the guided missile ship HMS London. The Army's landing ship Sir Lancelot, which had taken the company of Royal Marines of 41 Commando aboard, left Malta earlier.

One of the last duties ashore was chaired by the last Commander British Forces Malta, Rear-Admiral Oswald Cecil, who held the final conference of senior officers in the Villa Bettina at Gudja, where General Graham, commanding the first brigade of British troops in Malta in 1799, had his headquarters. This villa, with its fine walled garden, was also the headquarters of The

Royal Hampshire Regiment in World War Two. Colonel P W G Seabrook, the senior British Army officer in Malta, was among those present at this final historic meeting. Earlier he had expressed wishes of good luck to the people of Malta in an interview on British Forces Broadcasting Service.

Admiral Cecil told the assembled officers that there were still many Maltese in all three British Services and added that the Services still had the most cordial relations with the Armed Forces of Malta, successors to the Royal Malta Artillery.

Regiments on the island during Brigadier-General Graham's day included the Royal Artillery, the 30th of Foot (with officers from the 56th of Foot attached) and the Marines. History repeated itself at that

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Story: George Hogan

final meeting – for those present included Colonel Seabrook, of the Royal Artillery, Major M E F Green of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (descendants of the 30th of Foot), Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Holman of The Royal Anglian Regiment (descendants of the 56th of Foot) and Major I C Martin of the Royal Marines.

The shore salute of 21 guns was fired from Fort St Elmo, on the seaward point of Valletta, by Malta's artillery regiment, until recently the Royal Malta Artillery, whose Colonel-in-Chief was Her Majesty the Queen.

The RMA had precedence in the British Army after the Army Air Corps and was awarded the battle honour 'Egypt 1882,' having had a battery serving with the British forces engaged in that campaign.

In World War Two, guns from St Elmo and other nearby coastal defences destroyed the E-boats and the secret one-man torpedo boats sent from Italy to make the only seaborne attack during Malta's epic siege.

As HMS London sailed for the open sea, the Royal Marines band played 'Auld Lang Syne' and thousands of Maltese thronged the ramparts and bastions of Valletta and the Three Cities around Grand Harbour in their last farewell to British servicemen. During the war the Maltese had also gathered in multitude to welcome in the merchant ships, then shepherded by Royal Navy warships and Royal Air Force fighter planes.

At the same time, on the ground, the Army's anti-aircraft guns were fighting off the raiding bombers and fighters while the infantry were manning their defence posts around airfields and harbours. They were also manually unloading the precious cargoes in harbour and speeding the turn-round of fighter aircraft on the airfields. Four-man teams (two Army and two RAF) became expert in refuelling and re-arming the Spitfires in a matter of minutes.

On 1 April 1979, as HMS London sailed into the distant haze, officers and ratings took a final look at the huge stone ramparts and bastions, curtains and barrakkas of the fortified city of Valletta, recording for the last time that impression of solid, staid and steadfast strength that had impressed all those who came by troopship and warship in the past 180 years.

Overhead, airmen in an RAF Nimrod, flying out as symbolic escort and dipping in salute, looked down to see the tiny leaf-shaped island as soldiers of the modern

Guest writer **GEORGE HOGAN** was in Malta during the rundown to final withdrawal of British servicemen. He was Deputy Editor of **SOLDIER** from 1969 to 1971 and is author of the recently published 'Malta: The Triumphant Years 1940-43,' a dramatic record of the life and morale of the garrison during the epic siege.

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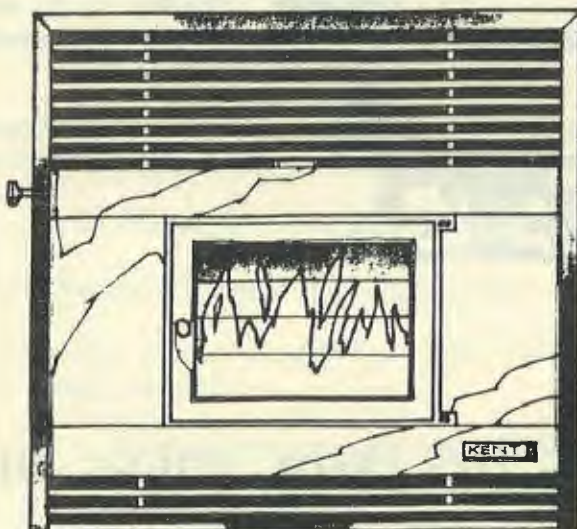
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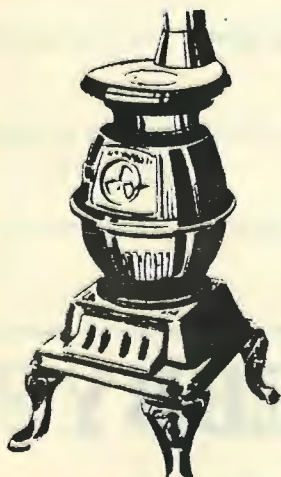
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Dennis Scott has **FONTANELLE** in grand order. He is as fit as a fiddle and should figure prominently any day now.

PETALI has been slaying them at Waterlea of late and should be a big chance when the local meeting comes around.

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Wally Boese has **ARAN SUE** coming along nicely and she appeals as one who could make an impression at Waterlea.

FRIAR TUCK is one worth following in the north. He's doing everything right.

MERRY AFFAIR looks like taking one out any time now.

Another northerner who should bring home the bikkies soon is **MERRY AFFAIR**. This horse is very capable.

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from you on dor Lykoo Ship was mit mice
schidt mixt. Der rice vus gut unuff but der
mice durds schpoils der trade. Ve did not see
mice schidt in der sample vich you sent us. It
takes too much time to pick der mice durds
from rice. Ve order clean rice, and you schipt
schidt mitt der rice. Ve like you to schipt us
der rice in vun sack and der mice schidt in
anodder sack, und den ve mix to suit der
costomer. Please rite if ve should schip back
der schidt und keep der rice or shipt der
rice and keep der schidt, or schip back der
whole schitten verim. Ve vant to do ride in
this matter, but ve do not like diss schidt
business.

Mitt much respects,
Hans Gruber."

Lapidus was having dinner one
night whe he began to cough and choke,
horribly. As he gasped his last, he turned to
his wife and said, "I'm dying, my dear Zelda,
but I have something I must confess to you. I
have been unfaithful."

Zelda leaned over warmly and said
softly, "I know, darling. That's why I
poisoned you."

When an anxiously awaited baby gorilla
arrived at the Toledo Zoo, a sign announced:
"It's a Girlilla."

Looking over the rim of the volcano's
crater the American tourist remarked:
"Reminds one of Hell, doesn't it?" The guide
threw up his hands and exclaimed, "These
Americans. They've been eveywhere!"

It seems there was an English aviator
who made so many mercy flights that he was
finally knighted by the Queen. Afterwards,
every time he flew over Buckingham Palace
he dipped his wings in salute. "Who is that?"
the Queen was asked. She replied, "Oh, that's
the fly-by-night."

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Army have first viewed it in more recent years of airtrooping. As the wartime garrison, too, knew it intimately — with each distinctive huge domed and twin-spired village church towering like a mother hen over the surrounding brood of farmers' cottages, villas, schools and coffee shops.

There were tears in the eyes of Maltese civilians waving goodbye and from one group of girls could be heard the quavering strains of 'We'll meet again.' So many have lasting memories of Tommy, Joe and Jack. There were emotional moments, too, when Maltese visited St Francis Ravelin, Floriana, during the two-week period before the closedown, to wish good luck to the staff of the British Forces Broadcasting Service, which had entertained Maltese civilians and British Service personnel and their families for the past 21 years. They brought presentation cakes and other offerings and were happy to go away with handshakes and autographs.

These thoughts and emotions stemmed

from the recent past and from the war years — now nearly four decades past — but the British serviceman's ties are deeper still, going back to 1798 when the Maltese called upon Admiral Lord Nelson to help them evict the French from the island. The British flag was first raised on 9 February 1799 — some months before British troops arrived — by the patriot Vincent Borg who inspired his countrymen and was certain he could depend on Nelson. Captain Alexander Ball, besieging Valletta from seaward while the Maltese blockaded on land, was soon invited ashore and appointed president of the provisional government. The 30th and 89th Regiments of Foot (now The Queen's Royal Lancashire Regiment and The Royal Irish Rangers) landed on 9 December 1799. The 2nd Battalion of the 35th (The Royal Sussex Regiment) and the 48th (The Royal Anglian Regiment) arrived in July 1800. The French held out in the strongly fortified capital of Valletta but on 5 September 1800 the 35th entered the city and their King's

(Continued on Page 23)

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Colour was the first British flag to be flown there.

It is an historic coincidence that when Malta was granted independence in 1964, The Royal Sussex Regiment was again present and the Union flag was hauled down by Lieutenant Stephen Thorpe, the youngest Regular officer serving with the battalion.

After the expulsion of the French, the Maltese asked for British protection to be continued and the nations of Europe signified their agreement in the Treaty of Paris in 1814:

Various constitutions were tried over the years, including advisory councils, diarchical government and self-government, until in 1964 Malta was granted full independence. A mutual defence agreement and grants of £50,000,000 over ten years meant that a British garrison remained for the island's defence. The continuing British presence helped to maintain Malta's economy and gave employment to many thousands. Nato's Mediterranean Fleet headquarters were set up in 1952 and continued for more than 20 years.

In 1972 the Maltese leaders sought a new

agreement with Britain but, before this was accomplished, political action caused tension and the British garrison began to withdraw. A well organised and smoothly carried out evacuation plan ensured that servicemen's families were flown home quickly and without untoward incident; while tens of thousands of tons of stores were loaded on to a fleet of ships in Grand Harbour.

At the eleventh hour a settlement was agreed and the garrison, although somewhat reduced, remained. It was that seven-year agreement that came to an end with the final withdrawal this year.

In recent years the largest single Army unit had been 234 Signal Squadron (Malta) commanded by Major E Pickup. This squadron had the distinction of being the longest continuously formed unit in the corps — having taken over from a Royal Engineers communications squadron in 1923. During all that time it had been a combined British-Maltese unit.

The Royal Engineers were also represented until the end — in fact one of the last senior non-commissioned officers to leave was Sergeant Whitmore, in charge of the last

(Continued on Page 28)



Above: 'Roll Out the Barrel' as soldiers trundle bombs to waiting bombers in World War Two.

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RUGBY REVENUE

THE French tour last winter yielded the New Zealand Rugby Union almost exactly twice as much as did the Argentinian tour. France played eight matches and the Pumas nine.

France had the benefit of a test match at Eden Park where the capacity crowd paid a whopping \$308,710 which, after expenses were deducted, became a net \$286,660.

The statistics below show how important it is for NZRFU revenue to have tours annually. Collectively, the various tours brought in more than \$600,000.

If the Eden Park test represented the most lucrative event in 1979 the most humble was surely the New Zealand Colts v West Coast match in Greymouth. Gross takings were \$106 which did not cover expenses. There was also a loss on the Buller game at Westport.

	GROSS GATE	NET GATE	GROUND RENT	CHEQUE TO NZRFU
FRANCE TO NEW ZEALAND				
Marlborough	14,386	13,498	6,749	6,749
Waikato	55,000	49,882	24,941	24,941
North Auckland	24,382	22,095	11,047	11,048
Wellington	74,749	66,764	22,263	44,501
Hawkes Bay	26,704	22,211	11,105	11,106
New Zealand (Christchurch)	151,612	142,336	47,437	94,899
Southland	42,207	39,999	20,000	19,999
New Zealand (Auckland)	308,710	286,660	95,554	191,106
	\$697,750	\$643,445	\$239,096	\$404,349
ARGENTINA TO NEW ZEALAND				
Poverty Bay	10,697	8,578	4,289	4,289
Auckland	67,306	60,468	20,156	40,312
Manawatu	26,775	25,539	12,770	12,769
Bay of Plenty	26,101	24,217	12,108	12,109

FRANCE TO NEW ZEALAND (Continued)

	GROSS GATE	NET GATE	GROUND RENT	CHEQUE TO NZRFU
Taranaki	17,860	16,434	8,217	8,217
New Zealand XV (Dunedin)	83,027	79,193	26,906	52,287
South Canterbury	11,237	10,640	5,320	5,320
New Zealand XV (Wellington)	100,851	92,264	30,755	61,509
Counties	28,694	27,380	13,690	13,690
	\$372,548	\$344,713	\$134,211	\$210,502

NZRFU FIXTURES

Prince of Wales Cup	3,267	2,697	1,348	1,349
NZ Trials (Pukekohe)	16,857	15,143	7,571	7,572
Inter-Island (Invercargill)	24,872	22,753	11,376	11,377
	\$44,966	\$40,593	\$20,295	\$20,298

NEW ZEALAND JUNIORS TOUR

Wairarapa-Bush	3,039	2,487	1,244	1,243
Horowhenua	2,318	1,253	626	627
East Coast	512	494	247	247
Thames Valley	595	466	233	233
King Country	1,261	1,087	362	725
Wanganui	2,159	1,786	893	893
	\$9,884	\$7,573	\$3,605	\$3,968

NEW ZEALAND COLTS TOUR

West Coast	106	—	—	—
Buller	444	255	359	(104)
Nelson Bays	1,197	1,107	554	553
Mid-Canterbury	1,128	913	457	456
North Otago	1,600	1,388	694	694
	\$4,475	\$3,663	\$2,064	\$1,599

★ ★ ★

A report from America claims that 300 prisoners who rioted at Trenton, New Jersey, because they wanted television installed in the prison, are now threatening to riot again because it wasn't installed fast enough for them to see themselves rioting in the television news.

★ ★ ★

Bobby's mother had been away for a few weeks and was questioning her small son about events during her absence.

"Well, one night we had a thunderstorm, and I was scared, so daddy and me slept together."

"Bobby, said the boy's pretty young French nursemaid, "You mean daddy and I."

"No", said Bobby. "That was last Thursday. I'm talking about Monday night."

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Life in the Western Desert

From the time that General Montgomery was appointed to command the Eighth Army a new air of optimism and confidence permeated troops from high to low — mainly I think because he told us the broad outline of his plan for Alamein and what our particular job would be. At 9.40pm on October 23, 1942, the historic battle of El Alamein began with a tremendous artillery barrage by 908 field and medium guns who opened fire simultaneously, lighting the sky in one continuous flash from the Mediterranean to the Qattara Depression. With the ground shaking like a continuous earthquake it presented an awe-inspiring sight — plus a hellish cacophony of sound and it seemed impossible for any human to survive on the receiving end of this lethal rain of exploding hot steel. Of course, many did not survive and many who did were still dazed when we took them prisoner the next day.

However many thousands did survive and fought back and it was a further 10 days before they cracked and we broke through and had them on the run. Some 10 days later I was unlucky enough to receive a slight shrapnel wound in my left wrist and when I was admitted to ADS they injected penicillin to which I proved to be allergic and my body came out in a mass of blisters. To my disgust it was decided to evacuate me by hospital ship from Tobruk back to Alexandria and finally back to N.Z. Base Hospital.

The evacuation was rather novel because, due to the many previous actions and its long siege, the wharves and most of the inner harbour was blocked by sunken ships and so we were taken out to the hospital ship by a flat-bottomed lighter and the seriously wounded were hoisted to the deck by crane in a box-like frame that held two stretchers. Naturally, the main concern of the medical staff was to give immediate attention to the seriously wounded and the walking wounded like myself were allotted a bunk and left to our own devices until the more urgent problems had been attended to. I for one made good use of the time as I will describe later.

At this point I would like to paint a word picture of the sudden transition from life in the open desert under battle conditions to life aboard a hospital ship with its almost unbelievable luxury in comparison. The constant temperature in the desert was never below 100deg and was often as high as 130deg. The only shade at the front line was the little you might get from your slit trench. Normal meals were often impossible and hot meals a rare luxury. Fresh bread and butter a dream of the past and green vegetables came out of tins if and when available. Drinking water was rationed to one pint a day — with which you were expected to shave, clean your teeth, wash your face only and drink. Gradually your scalp became a matted mass mixed with sweat and sand. Your skin was soon burnt brown and horny like old leather except where it was a suppurating mass of desert sores which refused to heal despite the efforts and medicine from our RAP bloke. Added to all this was the daily human carnage that happened in your area as now then one of your cobbers alongside you died while you were talking to him.

These things were part of the daily life and death in its most gruesome form. The great majority of troops were able to carry out their allotted tasks even under these abnormal conditions — but a few here and there cracked under the strain and had to be taken out of action. In fact, when I look back I am amazed that so few failed the test and I am certain that many of us were close and only some inner strength or pride derived from love of wife, family or religion helped us to carry on. As our cobbers daily met death all around us — you can well imagine our thoughts — how soon will my turn come? And for those of us lucky enough to survive over four years of war and many battles — it has left a terrible scar on our minds, thoughts and feelings and many were nervous wrecks for various periods and some have never fully recovered. Due to the many hundreds of dead bodies lying unburied because of battle conditions and decomposing rapidly in the terrific desert heat — result: a plague of billions of flies nearly drove us mad and with the odd sand storm thrown in when it became difficult to breathe and impossible to eat and you lived and slept in the same clothes for months on end. The desert nights were often extremely cold and you had only your greatcoat to keep you warm. The early dawns were marvellous, exhilarating and the air seemed endowed with a super magic quality of purity that made all things seem possible for the all too little time that it lasted — because once the sun peeped over the horizon everything and everyone wilted quickly under its intense heat and so that readers, is my brief word picture of life in the desert.

Now, back to the hospital ship, with all the medical staff busy attending to the seriously wounded. I had a look around and soon found a bathroom not in use and I proceeded to run a hot bath and divest myself of my stinking uniform and though my arm was still bandaged and in a sling I managed to scrub myself after a heavenly soaking. Just washing my hair and scalp was

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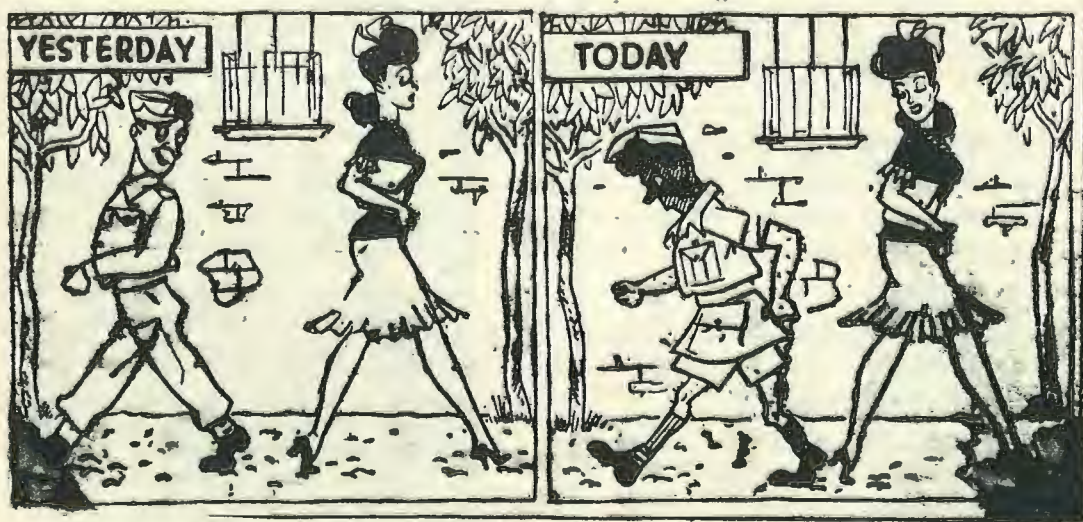
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such a joy and despite the fact that I had re-opened my wound and started bleeding, I was supremely happy having achieved my dream — the luxury of a hot bath — the first for several months. Just as I finished a nurse discovered me and I received a mild telling-off, especially when she noticed my bleeding arm, which she quickly rebound and led me back to my bunk where I climbed between cool white sheets — a forgotten luxury, while awaiting the further luxury of a hot meal with real bread and butter, ice cream and peaches — just heavenly. Remembering that El Alamein was the first Allied victory of any importance in WW2 and we were among the first wounded from that battle to arrive at Alexandria and on transfer to the hospital train the medical staff treated us like heroes and lavished on us gifts of chocolate, cigarettes, cigars, shaving gear and perfumed soap. We were quite overwhelmed and couldn't understand all the fuss because from our point of view we had just been doing our normal jobs. We finally arrived at a British hospital on the banks of the Suez Canal at Eibrit where I spent a week and as it was nearing Christmas I pestered the doctor to send me on to our own N.Z. hospital further down the Canal where I arrived a few days before Christmas and believe me that was a lovely present — to be back among our own troops and nurses who were so wonderful to us poor homesick blokes. It was especially nice to meet again Eva Patchett of Blenheim, whose photo hangs in the ladies lounge of our RSA club.

C. M. J. WATSON.



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- KOROMIKO BACON**
- KOROMIKO CELERY**
- KOROMIKO GARLIC**
- KOROMIKO MILD**
- KOROMIKO SMOKED**
- KOROMIKO CHIVE**

remaining British Forces Post Office in Malta, at RAF Luqa.

During World War Two some 15,000 British soldiers stood side-by-side with an equal number of Maltese gunners, infantrymen and pioneers, in the epic defence which gained the admiration of the free world and earned the George Cross awarded by King George VI. His grandfather, Edward VII, had bestowed the title 'King's Own' on the part-time infantry unit, The King's Own Malta Regiment, which was disbanded in 1972. During the war the regiment expanded to four infantry battalions while the Royal Malta Artillery totalled five regiments — two manning coastal defences, two heavy anti-aircraft and one light anti-aircraft. There was also a Maltese searchlight battery, a Malta Pioneer Group and the Fortress Squadron, Royal Engineers, manned by Maltese. When the Governor, General Dobbie, called the nation to arms in 1940 — 'We fight or perish' — 3000 men joined the Home Guard in three days.

Eleven British regiments served on the island in World War Two and were awarded the battle honour 'Malta.' They included the Southern Infantry Brigade of Hampshire, Dorset and Devonshire regiments which went on to the offensive as Montgomery's independent 231st (Malta) Brigade in the invasion of Sicily and onward into Normandy with the first wave of the northern invasion. Thus were Malta's siege years of agony avenged.

But the island had not been merely defensive. While the Royal Artillery's six regiments, and the Royal Malta Artillery, put up tremendous barrages to safeguard ships in harbour and planes on the ground, the RAF and the Royal Navy's ships and submarines based in Malta were strafing Rommel's sea convoys and harassing inland in Sicily, Italy, North Africa and the Aegean. Malta-based planes and ships destroyed hundreds of thousands of tons of enemy shipping but the islanders suffered in turn when their homes and churches fell, battered by thousands of tons of bombs unloaded by the Regia Aeronautica and the Luftwaffe. In one month alone, April 1942, 6730 tons were dropped, 2000 of them on and around the defensive positions occupied by the 1500 men of the Southern Infantry Brigade guarding the vital Hal Far airfield. Safi strip and Luqa dispersal areas.

Since the crusades, when the Knights of St John of Jerusalem were forced to withdraw from the Holy Land, Malta has been the key to the Mediterranean. In 1565 the

PHONE 89-474

David Rott

PHONE 88-398

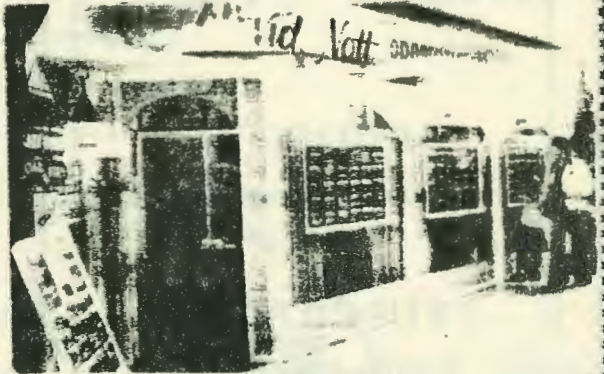
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islanders and the Knights suffered the first great siege; their victory against the Turks at last halted the Eastern threat to Europe.

Malta's survival in World War Two was vital to the allies and her aggression instrumental in defeating Rommel. Had the island fallen, Axis forces might well have forced their way through Egypt and Turkey to Iran and the East. Today, tiny Malta is the enigma of the Mediterranean, with the wish to stand alone in a world unsettled politically and economically. Her hopes lie with tourism and small industries. That envisages permanent peace.

This tiny island with a population scarcely larger than Portsmouth's, but sited midway between Europe and Africa, halfway between Gibraltar and Port Said, may still be of tactical, if not strategic, importance. Some say that with the great advances in modern weapons and communications her importance is negligible.

Lord Gort was advised, when sent to take over the governorship in May 1942, that his task might be to organise the capitulation within six weeks. Yet Malta and its garrison held — and saw Italy fall. The spirit and faith that sustained Malta then is needed today and in the critical years ahead.

★ ★ ★

The Israeli was arguing with a Christian visitor. "The Jewish people are the foundation of Western civilisation," he said, "you owe everything to us — you even took your Ten Commandments from us."

"Agreed," said the Christian, "but you can't say we kept them, can you?"

★ ★ ★

The director fell in love with the dumbest chorus girl on earth, and the most beautiful.

"Susie," he said, "you could go a long way if you were real nice to somebody who could do you some good. Er-uh-me for example."

"Ooh — I think I understand," she cooed. "You want me to be nice to you."

So the next morning when she came to work she brought him a large box of candy.

★ ★ ★

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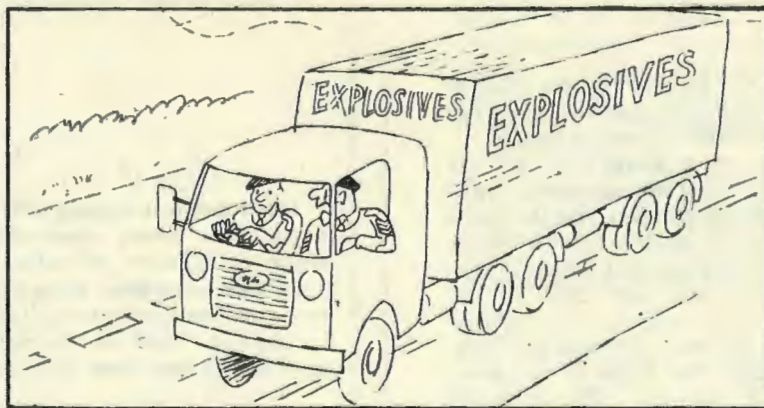
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PICTON WOMEN'S SECTION

The 23 members who attended the April meeting were most interested in a talk by the public health nurse, Paul Eden, on various aspects of his work.

This certainly entails far more than just applying a few bandages, and we are indeed very fortunate to have the dedicated care provided by the public and district nursing teams outside of the hospitals, but working in close liaison with them, throughout New Zealand.

President Sybil Phillips thanked members for their contributions towards yet another successful shop day. Joan Norton won the raffle.

Some members helped with Poppy Day sales and women's section members again prepared bunches of flowers for the War Services Cemetery and I was glad to accompany the five or six RSA men who assisted their president Jim Maxwell to arrange these around to Cenotaph. I placed a special bunch with a special thought for our late women's section member Millie Whitcombe, as I know that is what our girls would have wished.

The particularly mild morning was an extra bonus for those many people who attended the dawn parade. As president Jim Maxwell noted, it was good to see the large number of young people present. Once again the Waikawa Playcentre girls prepared the food for the breakfast and despite having nearly 200 to feed, the big pots of goulash, saveloys, savouries and sandwiches left everyone staisfied. Our thanks to the early helpers in the kitchen, namely Mavis Town, Margaret Macdonald, Doss Fredericks, Gloria Parfitt Yarrall (who replaced her mother Dorrie, who is in hospital) and Ida Willoughby. The help given by other members was also greatly appreciated.

—JOAN M. TAYLOR.

"I can't find a cause for your complaint"; the doctor said, as he completed a thorough physical examination of the patient. "To be perfectly frank, I think it's due to drinking".

"In that case", said the patient, "I'll come back when you're sober".

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Just too much

A man was complaining to a friend about an uncle who was staying with him: "I didn't mind when he wore my suits. I didn't object when he smoked my best cigars, drank my scotch and borrowed my car every night. But when he sat down at the dinner table and laughed at me with my own teeth - that was too much!"

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crossword puzzle 17

ACROSS

1. Tracking device
6. Impale
10. Present
14. — and kicking
15. Warsaw resident
16. Singer Guthrie
17. Skin openings
18. No dissenting votes
20. To a —
21. Skin
23. Digs for
24. Thaw
25. Range
27. Cut tape
30. Fake coin
31. Certain campus militants (abbr.)
34. Faith
35. Task
36. Tit for —
37. Small one
38. Complain
39. Dancer Kelly
40. England (abbr.)
41. Salt water
42. Wooden box
43. Tiny
44. Citrus fruit
45. Labored
46. — Cod
47. Rear
48. Surrendered
51. Treaty

52. District Attorneys (abbr.)
55. Unstructured (comp. wd.)
58. Senile and weak
60. Lease
61. Message
62. Funny
63. Strokes
64. Summers in France
65. Pay the way

7. Sound
8. — mode (2 wds.)
9. Big —
10. Waif
11. Press
12. Chimney
13. Throw
19. Picture
22. Malt drink
24. Fog
25. Incline
26. Chaste
27. Scatter
28. Wrinkled fruit
29. Jump forward
30. Gleam
31. Purloin
32. "Inferno" author
33. Stallion

35. Felony
38. Vise
39. Mesh
41. Gay —
42. Touch
45. Twitch
46. Dollars and —
47. Underworld
48. Corporation (abbr.)
49. Foil
50. Crease
51. Sneaky —
52. Ten cents
53. Inter —
54. Religious group
56. Compass point (abbr.)
57. Fleck
59. And not

DOWN

1. Engrossed
2. Lily
3. Drastic
4. Hail!
5. Hold in awe
6. Gush

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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(Answer on Page 36)

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EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

May 1980

There was not enough support to warrant holding an RSA ball this year.

Awatere presented with new ensign and District Scouts also to receive one.

\$3000 relief account matured, stock re-invested with CSB at 12½%.

Dominion Council delegates to be R. Hemming, E. A. R. Bishell and P. A. Brodie. Picton is to send an associate delegate.

Cabaret planned for June 21.

Flaxbourne sub-branch in recess.

Architect's drawings awaited for first stage of building improvements (outside toilet and store-room).

MAY 1955:

Present: R. T. Scott, F. R. Lightfoot, J. R. Naysmith, F. O. Delany, J. M. Walsh, W. J. Perkins, R. C. Bush, R. D. Wanden, J. A. Bell, W. A. Hood, P. G. Tizard (secretary).

Branches: F. W. Parker (East Coast), A. A. Kitching (Rai), P. L. Smith (Renwick), C. Harris and J. Pattie (Awatere), T. B. Madsen and C. B. Neilson (Picton), N. K. Jellyman (Kaikoura).

Business: Messrs Wanden and Perkins

appointed RSA representatives on bowling club. 12 new members approved. General account showed receipts of \$1512/0/8. Payments of \$1193/18/2, leaving a credit balance of \$386/17/7. The relief account showed receipts of \$470/10/5, payments of \$43/12/11, leaving a credit balance of \$c\$498/8/3.

Messrs Delany and Hood advised they would not be standing for re-election.

MAY 1950:

Present: R. A. Mears (President), F. W. Horton, J. Bell, R. D. Wanden, A. Broadley, L. D. Waters, G. H. Stace, F. A. Harrison, F. O. Delany, W. A. Hood.

Branches: J. Sutherland (Picton), F. W. Parker (East Coast), S. E. West (Seddon), F. V. H. Robinson (Renwick), A. A. Kitching (Rai).

Bowling clubs advised of terms under which annual grant (maintenance) is made. Quote received to seal area in front of clubhouse and pathway down side of building. Decided to lay Col-fix with voluntary labour. Note of thanks to ladies for assistance on Poppy Day.

Membership Statistics 1979

Each year at December 31 we advise the NZRSA of our financial membership and from this return they charge us capitation. Last year capitation was \$2.80 per head — this year it will be \$3.00.

Last year branches paid Marlborough RSA \$2 per head of members towards capitation with the exception of Picton who insisted on paying the full amount of \$2.80 per member.

This year, however, all branches will pay their full share of capitation, viz: \$3 per head.

To show readers the strength of our association, the 1979 membership list is broken down as follows:

854 Blenheim at \$4	3416.00
100 Blenheim at \$4 (in advance)	400.00
190 Picton at \$2.80	532.00
67 Kaikoura at \$2	134.00
18 Renwick at \$2	36.00
35 Awatere at \$2	70.00
17 Havelock at \$2	34.00
8 Flaxbourne at \$2	16.00
6 East Coast at \$2	12.00
21 Rai Valley at \$2	42.00
5 Sounds at \$2	10.00
Picton (underpayment)	2.40

1321

Total \$4704.40

The amount paid in RSA capitation also includes WW1 Veterans, 100% disabled, life members and returned servicewomen who do not pay a subscription to us. We had on December 31, 65 WW1 members, 2 disabled, 42 life members and 31 returned

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 17

R	A	D	A	R		S	T	A	B		G	I	F	T
A	L	I	V	E		P	O	L	E		A	R	L	O
P	O	R	E	S		U	N	A	N	I	M	O	U	S
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R	E	N	T		N	O	T	E		C	O	M	I	C
P	E	T	S		E	T	E	S		T	R	E	A	T

servicewomen. Thus our paying 1321 members, plus those above gave us a membership for capitation purposes of 1461.

We will pay 1461 times \$2.80 — \$4090.80 during this 1980 year. During this year we will be collecting \$3 per member and when our 1980 return goes in to NZRSA in December we will pay our total membership multiplied by \$3 per head when due in 1981.

A trap for young players looking at the balance sheet this year is the amount shown in current subs of \$2557. The difference obviously is that the first three months of the year (January to March) subscriptions were included in the previous balance sheet.

From now on with capitation or membership each year and our financial year covering the same period, there should be no more confusion, even for the expert.

Remember too, we are actually paying capitation in arrears, or collecting in advance, depending on which side of the fence you want to be on. Confused?

As the cop helped the bruised and battered drunk up from the pavement in front of the bar, he asked, "Can you describe the man who hit you?"

"Oh, yes," said the drunk. "That's just what I was doing when he hit me."



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