

VOL. 2, NO. 8

JUNE 1980

CROSSFIRE



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Editorial

In the magazine this month are some of the results of remits discussed at the recent Dominion Conference. Prominent in speeches and discussion was the topic of war pensions. Sad to say, all representations to Government for increased war pensions and additional benefits have been declined.

It is probably new to most members that the War Pensions Board made 11,000 decisions of various kinds during the year. Almost 3000 fresh disabilities were claimed, 1000 applications for review were received and 2000 pensions were considered for re-assessment or renewal. At March 31, 1979, there were 41,325 war pensions in force, of which 22,287 were disablement pensions; 4990 were widows pensions and the number of economic, war service pensions and war veterans allowances were 3228, 5702 and 4703 respectively.

These 22,287 disablement pensions included almost 70,000 separate disabilities, of which the major groups were gunshot wounds, accidental injuries to the bones, joints and soft tissues; nervous systems; eye, ear and nose. Deafness was the major disability of 903 fresh disabilities granted. Included in the figures of 903 were over 200 previously accepted disabilities which were re-instated.

So far this year Marlborough RSA has dealt with 24 applications for war disability pensions and applications for a review of pension. We strongly recommend any of our members to test their eligibility for a pension.

**IN TOWN FOR THE DAY?
TRY LUNCH AT THE RSA**

We urgently 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 this magazine.

N.Z.R.S.A. SPORTING FIXTURES VENUES 1981-82

1981
Golf: Taupo.
Outdoor Bowls: Papakura.
Indoor Bowls: Hastings.
Snooker: Takapuna.
Darts: Ashburton.
1982
Golf: Otorohanga.
Outdoor Bowls: Dunedin.
Indoor Bowls: Mt Maunganui.
Snooker: Rotorua.
Darts: Mt Maunganui.

RENWICK R.S.A.

Officers elected for 1980 are:
President: Dick Sales.
Secretary: John Morgan.
Treasurer: Lou Wadsworth.

NEW MEMBERS

B45334 D. T. FITZSIMMONS
632089 I. M. HARPER

Ron Hemming's President's Report

After the hectic month of April, if only for the fact that it included Anzac Day, May was comparatively quiet. There was still plenty to do though, as the Regional Conference took place in Motueka and a party from Marlborough took the opportunity to attend.

The main business was to discuss the remits that were being brought forward at the Dominion Conference which was to be held in Wellington. Motueka RSA very kindly hosted the conference and thanks were extended to Buff Drummond for the way in which he and his executive had made the arrangements, including entertaining the ladies while we were otherwise engaged.

The re-election of District President took place and I am pleased to be able to tell you that our own Vern Anderson was unopposed. On your behalf I offer him our congratulations.

For those of you who don't know, his district extends all over the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast areas, so you can get some idea of the amount of travelling he does on RSA business.

During the month we extended an invitation to the Taranaki Savage Club. There were many of our members included in the group and we were treated to a good evening's entertainment.

On your behalf I invited them back on their way home, which was Queen's Birthday weekend. Those of you who were present will know that it was a great repeat performance with good music, sketches, etc. We are still waiting for the plans from the architect's so we can go ahead with our alterations. We hope to use as much voluntary labour as possible to keep down excessive costs, so any members who can use a saw or wield a hammer, we will be very pleased to see you.

I make no apology for once again bringing up the matter of non-members and visitors using the club premises. Both the secretary-manager and myself are getting complaints about certain individuals who regularly frequent the club and who are not members. Please ensure that all visitors are signed in and accompanied by members at all times. It has been made very clear to all of us that our Charter could be jeopardised for infringements. We enjoy a good working relationship with the authorities and we want this to continue without any hassles. I do ask all of you to safeguard our Charter.

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.

GET YOUR CROSSFIRE REGULARLY!

For just \$2 you can have Crossfire posted to any address in New Zealand.

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.

PICTON RSA CLUB NEWS

Items of interest from May executive and clubhouse meetings: Executive (8/5/80): Resolved to put \$34 towards the collection for Waikawa Playcentre for the preparation of breakfast on Anzac Day, making the total \$100. Resolved that president Jim Maxwell attend the Dominion conference as an observer from Marlborough RSA. Accept an offer of 100 chairs at \$4 each, as they become available. Messrs E. Gibb and S. Gregg were nominated as scrutineers for the RSA ballot. Resolved that the custom of having pre-paid envelopes for the return of ballot papers be dispensed with. Resolved that the social evening planned for June 7 be considered as an evening in lieu of an official opening and that the lounge bar be used for the function. Messrs Geo Low, Rex Giddens and Neol Neilson be recommended to the AGM as honorary members of the Marlborough RSA Picton Branch Inc.

Clubhouse (27/5/80): Committee have applied for a renewal of the club charter. Recommended that the next social committee advertise in shops windows. Resolved that bar and spirit prices stay the same, but that we sell no splits over the bar, but sell the whole bottle with slight price adjustments (as advertised in the bar). To purchase extra cutlery. The president thanked all for their support during the year, especially those not standing again.

RSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — JUNE 3, 1980

Committee for 1980-81:

President: Jim Maxwell.

Vice-Presidents: Jim Cook and Peter Ashfield.

Secretary-Treasurer: Gordon Mattingley.

Immediate Past-President: Jim Taylor.

Committee: Clive Taylor, Cecil Ivamy, Fred McCall, Johnny Murrell, Stacey Golder, Syd Joiner, John Frisken and Wally Parfitt.

Items from the President's report: Membership 227 compared with 232 last year. Once again our women's section have been well to the fore. Their help at socials and general assistance at all times including Poppy Day and their annual shop day show their genuine interest in RSA affairs and is deserving of the highest praise. A recent donation of \$400 to our funds from the women's section will very likely be used to up-grade the furniture in the bar lounge. Poppy Day this year created a new record for Picton, bringing in approximately \$355. My sincere thanks to all who helped on that cold day. Hospital and home visiting have been carried out by Johnny Murrell and Les Moody, with Stacey Golder a very willing and able standby. The distribution of comforts along with Crossfire magazine and books are very much appreciated by those who are handicapped. A job well done by those mentioned. Grants to widows to assist them with Christmas comforts were made as usual. It would help our welfare people if anyone knowing of a member in need of assistance would let the secretary know about it. The servicemen's cemetery has been well maintained by Mr Brian Mattingley, to whom we express our gratitude. Steps are being taken to renew the concrete approach to the servicemen's cemetery which should improve access and appearance considerably. Congratulations to the Picton rink — Chick Elsmore, Ray Bascand, Bruce Scott and skip Reg Dawkins in winning the Marlborough Diggers Tournament and going to Tauranga to the NZRSA national tournament. Although they did not qualify, I believe they were the only team to beat the eventual winners.

Marlborough RSA have continued to give us their whole-hearted support on all occasions. My thanks to all concerned up there. No one can tell just what an asset this branch has in our

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DOMINION CONFERENCE REMITTS

Reduction in electricity charges for income-tested pensioners: *This remit was lost decisively.*

Double burials in servicemen's cemeteries: *A remit asking for recognition of widow's names on plaques was passed. This is already under action and it is expected that the Department of Internal Affairs will make a policy statement this month granting approval for double burials where local conditions and regulations allow. (More detail can be obtained from the office for any member interested).*

Capitation: A remit requiring service members to pay the same amount of capitation as returned servicemen was lost, largely on the grounds that capitation paid on behalf of returned servicemen includes the subscription to "Review."

Welfare Trust Fund: DEC to investigate the establishment of a welfare trust fund for service members.

Christmas Parcels: Christmas parcels to servicemen overseas are to be continued this year.

Service Members' Badges: The service members' badge is almost indistinguishable from Returned Servicemen's and the design is to be reconsidered. The badge may be produced in bronze colour instead of silver.

Ex-Malayan Association: *Now affiliated to NZRSA — no representative on DEC, but allowed one vote at Dominion Council from two representatives permitted.*

N.Z. Army Association: *Now affiliated to NZRSA — allowed representative on DEC and allowed one vote at Dominion Council from two representatives permitted.*

28th Maori Battalion Association: *Now affiliated to NZRSA — no representative on DEC — two representatives at Dominion Council — no voting right but may submit remits.*

N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps: *Now affiliated to NZRSA — no representative on DEC — two representatives at Dominion Council — No voting right but may submit remits.*

Examination of structure of DEC: A remit

asking to examine the structure of DEC with a view to streamlining its operation was withdrawn following advice from the president that this is already under action.

NZRSA Rule Amendment: *Rule 3 of NZRSA rules is to be amended to allow RSA bowling clubs to apply for affiliation.*

Review: Six copies only to be produced for the period to 31/3/81.

Service members at national sporting tournaments: A remit to make service members eligible to enter tournaments was lost.

Elimination tournaments — RSA sports: Where members may be deprived of the opportunity of participating because of distance from the parent association, an elimination tournament may be held. Any team then qualifying may then be included in post-section play along with other qualifiers at the green selected by the parent association.

Limitation on number of skips: A remit to limit the number of skips in teams for national tournaments was lost.

A pretty girl wanted to settle down with a nice man she had met.

He was not only very handsome, but he was reserved, and didn't make any passes at her. He seemed a perfect gentleman. She invited him up to her apartment. "I'm not that sort," he said shyly.

"Come on," she pleaded to overcome his shyness.

Once inside she asked him to sit down on the couch with her.

"Please," he said, "I told you this won't work out."

"But I want you for my husband," she said.

"Wonderful," he exclaimed with relief, "send him in."

★ ★ ★

A man and his wife were on safari in the jungle, when, just as they were walking along a narrow path in the thickest part of the bush, a huge lion leapt out at them, grabbed the wife in its massive jaws, and began to drag her off.

"Shoot, John!" she yelled to her husband. "Shoot!"

"I can't!" he yelled back. "I've run out of film!"

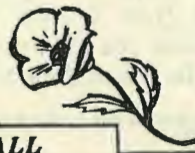
★ ★ ★



LAST POST

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We will remember them."



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AS WE WHO ARE LEFT DID NOT
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BLenheim WOMEN'S SECTION

Officers elected for 1980-81 are:

President: Mrs Eva Kennington.

Vice-President's: Mesdames Pat Denton and Kath Gane.

Secretary: Mrs Colleen Neal

Assistant Secretary: Mrs Joan Harris.

Treasurer: Mrs Ursula Taylor.

Committee: Mesdames Dora Brooks, Mavis Clifford, Grace Haack, Joan Harris, Terry Hart, Lois Sewell, Ila Smith, Edie Stretch, Sadie Parker.

Past-President: Jo Allan.

There was a very good attendance at the AGM. Mrs Kennington welcomed members and after ordinary business presented her annual report, in which she thanked her committee and members for their help during the year. Treasurer Ursula Taylor read and explained her financial report. Mrs Kennington presented Mrs Brown from the office with a small gift in appreciation for the help she gives the section. To our three members not standing for re-election a warm vote of thanks was expressed by

members. Mrs Kennington made special mention of the outstanding service to the women's section given by Mrs Kath Lucas and Mrs Vyner Quinn. These two ladies have served on the committee for 28 and 26 years respectively. They will be missed as they were tireless workers, but it will be our pleasure to see them at the section meetings each month. On behalf of our members, one of our senior ladies, Mrs Wearing, presented a gift to each. And on behalf of Kath and herself Vyner made a delightful little speech of thanks. Entertainment for the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs Grace Haack and was much enjoyed by all.

The women's section life members had their annual get-together and this year 12 members gathered for a dinner. At the preceding social hour these ladies had the pleasure of meeting the newly-elected president of Marlborough RSA and his wife, Mr and Mrs Ron Hemming.

—JO ALLAN



**WOMEN'S SECTION
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

On behalf of my committee. I submit the annual report for the year ending April 30, 1980.

CONDOLENCES: *To members who have lost loved ones and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy.*

FINANCE: *Our balance sheet shows our financial position to be sound, due mainly to sales tables and raffles held throughout the year. These have been well patronised and our appreciation goes to all who gave so generously.*

We made monetary donations to Heritage, Red Cross (also sent soap donated by members), Cancer Society, IHC Hospital Amenities Fund and the Community Creche. Thanks to those who did house-to-house collecting and street appeals for other community efforts.

MEMBERSHIP: *Our membership is still increasing and we now have 200 members.*

WOMEN'S SECTION INDOOR BOWLING CLUB: *This club had a very successful season with an increased membership on last year. The competitions were well attended and we would like to congratulate the winners. We also thank the club for its donation to the section.*

POPPY DAY: *Takings were down this year and as all money collected goes towards welfare, this must reflect in the amount of welfare work carried out within the RSA. It was disappointing we didn't get more response from members to act as collectors. Once again the stalwarts and willing helpers spent long periods out collecting. A sincere thank you to those members.*

ANZAC DAY: *Another busy time for us. Members and friends made floral tributes and sprays to be placed on servicemen's graves and arranging the floral tribute at the foot of the*

flagpole at Omaka Cemetery. There were 800 sprays placed on the Omaka and Fairhall graves this year. Once again, we would appreciate more of our members participating in the making of sprays. Remember, many hands make light work and what could be more pleasant than working with flowers? Our thanks to those who came along and helped. It was pleasing to hear the comments of appreciation from members of the public who saw the floral emblems at both Omaka and Fairhall.

HERITAGE: *Two of our members represent us on the Heritage committee. We also had representation at the annual meetings of Red Cross, Save the Children and I.H.C.*

SOCIAL: *Our meetings have been well attended and the committee have worked hard to find entertainment of a varied and interesting nature. I wish to thank the members who contributed and helped on the sales tables, raffles and afternoon teas.*

VETERANS' AFTERNOONS: *WWI widows and widowers, WWI veterans and wives afternoons were well attended and enjoyed by everyone. A number of our members attended both Renwick and Picton Christmas parties and members from those branches attended our Christmas dinner. The annual exchange visit to Nelson saw 44 members travel by bus in spite of heavy rain. All enjoyed themselves, meeting old friends and making new ones. Some of our members and friends took a boat trip down Pelorus Sound — a great day enjoyed by all and something new for us.*

CONCLUSION: *I would like to thank all the members of my committee for the help and support they have given me during the past year. This year we are losing two long-standing members from the committee, Kath Lucas and Vyna Quinn. Thank you both.*

—EVA KENNINGTON, President.

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Excerpts from June 1980 Executive Meeting:

RSA Bowling Club asked for assistance to pay for drainage of bowling green — declined with regret because of forthcoming building programme. Combined bowls granted \$100 towards biennial visit to Motueka. Successful visit of Savage Club to RSA. Increases in prices for soft drinks and cordials absorbed. Arrangements for social on June 21 in hand. Schoolboy labour employed during May holidays to assist veterans and widows with lawns and gardens. Branch election results advised. Picton extensions to be officially opened June 7. District president to receive 5c per head of membership to defray expenses in visiting associations in the area. Bowling club want changes to proposed building plan. Veterans' afternoons recommence June 16 and driver found for disabled persons vehicle. Reminder notices sent to 230 unfinancial members. Flaxbourne representative retires on branch going into recess. John Walton advised South Island representative N.Z. Ex-POW Assn. RSA Golf Committee officers re-elected en bloc.

and 25 years ago . . .

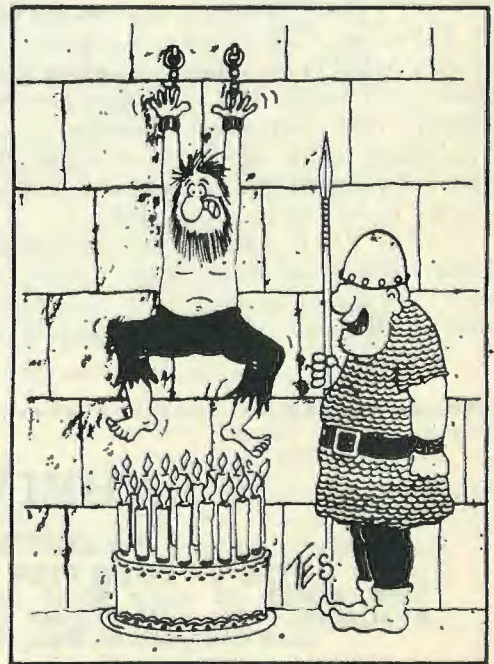
Present: J. A. Bell, J. R. Naysmith, F. R. Lightfoot, R. D. Wanden, L. D. Waters, W. J. Perkins, R. T. Scott, G. R. Cole, R. C. Bush, R. B. Hadfield, R. E. Bullen, J. M. Walsh, P. G. Tizard. Branches: F. W. Parker (East Coast), N. Jellyman (Kaikoura), T. B. Madsen and C. B. Neilson (Picton), P. L. Smith (Renwick), A. A. Kitching (Rai), F. O. Delany (Sounds).

New members to executive congratulated and welcomed. Proposed investment society to be discussed following Dominion Council meeting. Letter of thanks to women's section bowling club for donation of £35 to building fund. Sounds branch women's section formed. Nine new members joined during the month. General account balance was £186 and relief account £532. Cemetery working-bee arranged to plant roses and shrubs. Bowling club advised they could use the green between 12.30pm and 6pm on Sundays but clubhouse facilities were not available. L. D. Waters elected District Vice-President at District Conference, Westport. District Representative Mr K. Hardie-Boys had attended the conference. Mr Waters reported on his visit to Australia as leader of the Anzac delegation.

and 30 years ago . . .

Present: W. A. Hood, A. Broadley, R. A. Mears, B. Hammond, B. Brydon, R. Wanden, J. A. Bell, F. A. Harrison, L. Monro, F. W. Horton, F. O. Delany, L. D. Waters. Branches: F. V. H. Robinson (Renwick), S. West (Seddon), A. A. Kitching (Rai), F. W. Parker (East Coast), G. Lyons and L. B. Madsen (Picton).

New executive members welcomed. Decided to lay path in concrete instead of Colfix. Sir Howard Kippenberger advised now unable to attend ball due to wife's ill-health. Mr Horton to discuss with Borough Council proposed diversion of the river loop. Messrs Barton and McGill arriving in Blenheim to discuss billiard tables. Public Works Dept. to be asked what plans were being made for water supply at the soldiers' plot, Omaka. Secretary Mr Bain granted leave until after Dominion conference. Discussion on poor quality of Review. Opinion to be expressed at Dominion conference. Subcommittee members announced for the year.

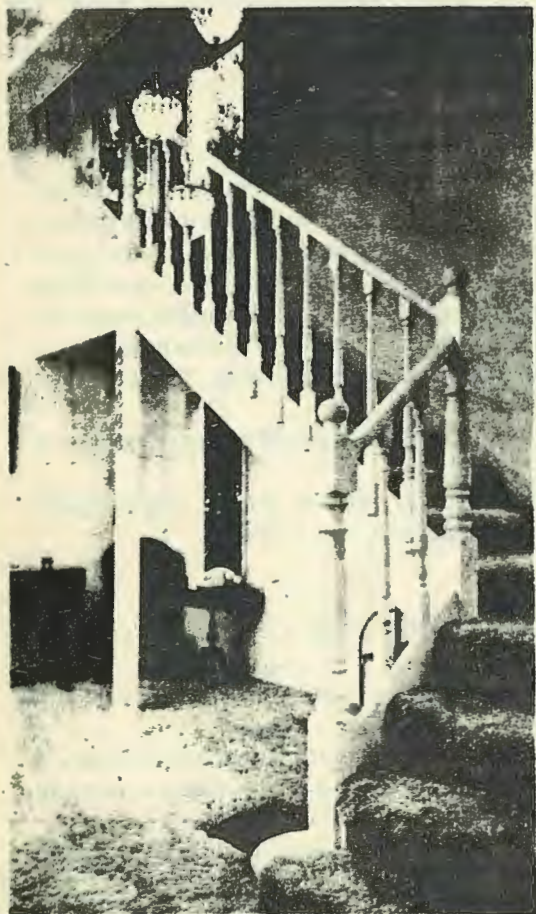


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PICTON LADIES SECTION NEWS

There were 30 members present at the AGM of the Picton section, held on May 13. Sybil Phillips said she would not seek re-election as president after her year in office and the following are the new committee: President: June Ireland. Vice-President and Charter Club delegate: Margaret Charters.

Treasurer: Joan Peat.

Secretary: Eileen Mattingley.

Immediate past President: Sybil Phillips.

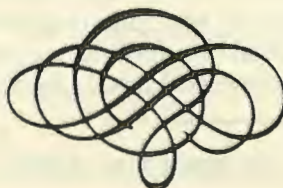
Committee: Shirley Rowland, Dorothy Dahlberg, Joan Taylor, Betty Topp, Eileen Mattingley, Pat Handley, Connie McKay.

Also appointed were Petal Summers, Ida Willoughby and Nancy Tranter to operate the sales tables, Joan Taylor as publicity officer, and Margaret Charters to continue as liaison officer with the charter social committee for catering assistance as required.

Mesdames Rose Townshend and Margaret Duckworth were once again elected as joint Patronesses, a dual role they have now shared for many years. Both these ladies are foundation members of the section and although Mrs Townshend was unable to be present it was good to see Mrs Duckworth in attendance.

We all look forward to another busy year of strong membership and good fellowship. In closing, I congratulate our new president and join with fellow committee-members in assuring her of our support.

—JOAN M. TAYLOR



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From the small beginnings of a few enthusiastic, and perhaps nostalgic chaps, who during 1965 and 1966 organised the odd get-together of comrades in and around their local areas, namely Auckland and Palmerston North, our association was born. The rural chaps, from manawatu, showed the way by drawing up a Constitution, with help from their local RSA solicitor, and by organising the first national reunion of this association. Although composed of mainly ex-Army personnel, they had the foresight to extend membership of this association to the three services, and that the area of service for eligibility be Malaysia, Singapore or Borneo.

Subsequent inquiries showed that the number of postings to those areas to be in excess of 25,000, a veritable pool of potential members.

Since 1968, when the association became an incorporated society, steady growth and progress has continued. Listed below are items that have helped towards this growth:

- 1 Registration of the association.
- 2 Reunions held biennially.
- 3 The National Executive based in close proximity to each other, to facilitate ease of contact, and regular meetings.
- 4 Introduction of (a) our lapel badge; (b) an association jersey; (c) our own association plaque.
- 5 Formation of branches, with 10 now in operation, each having their headquarters based in their local RSA clubrooms, and catering for various activities of the local association members.
- 6 An annual delegates meeting, comprising of the National Executive, plus two delegates from each branch.

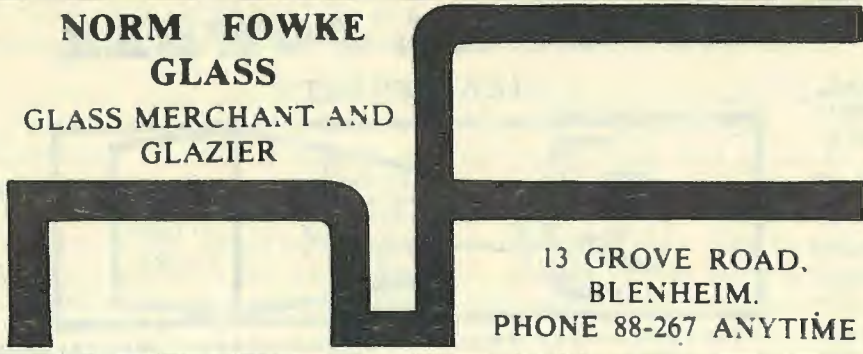
The objects of our association are directly related to those of the NZRSA. it is our intention to fully support the NZRSA, both nationally and locally, by encouraging all our members to become RSA members, and take active roles in all facets of their local RSA operations.

We believe that NOW is the time for the more "youthful" ex-servicemen of New Zealand to become involved in the NZRSA, so that in a few years hence, they will have the knowledge required to keep the whole organisation of RSA, from top to bottom, functioning along the paths so ably set by you, our forebears.

With this in mind, we humbly request that you look upon the affiliation application now before you, of the Ex-Malayan Services Association, with favour.

FOOTNOTE: The remit was carried.

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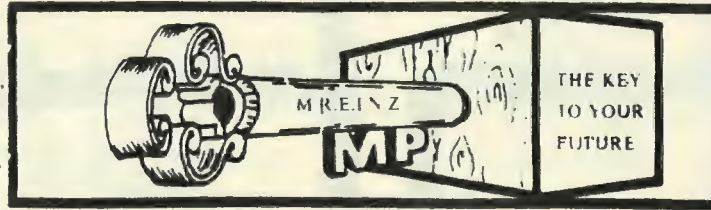
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FIELD PUNISHMENT DE-LUXE!

They were three. They marched in line with heads bared and shambling feet. And they stood before the Dealer out of Justice who addressed them in a cold clear voice: "You have done wrong; my Bible says so. Furthermore, it says, for this wrong you will be punished, so according to Chapter 4, Part 2, Section A, Sub-section 8, in the blue book, I must fine you seven days' pay and sentence you to seven days' field punishment." March out!

They doubled through the gates at the earnest request of voluble staff. The escort sergeant wept on their shoulders, wrung their hands, and bade them a tearful farewell, promising to pray for their souls each night. Then they faded into the obscurity of bawling staffs and the barbed wire enclosure. And for seven days and seven nights the

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



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company knew them not. Some said it was a good thing. Others pitied them, knowing from experience the terrible ordeal of the deprivation of life's essentials: beer and cigarettes.

Then one bright day they returned to the fold. Broken spirited? Certainly not, bubbling over with mirth and merriment rather. Humbled and servile? Definitely no. Bitter and brooding? On the contrary, oozing joie-de-vie and good fellowship. Positively amazing! Were they reformed? Had they seen the error of their ways? But hold! What's this? New shirt! New socks! New topee! Complete new outfit in fact! Knives, rifle covers, boots. Good heavens! Better equipped than they have ever been. What dark and dirty mystery is this? What foul plot this, that turns a punishment centre into a QM store? Have we been misled? Let-s in a crafty way make a few subtle inquiries.

Food? Ritz-Carlton my friend. Real, genuine, twenty shillings in the pound potatoes. Oranges, stewed fruit, black currant jam and . . . oh, lots and lots of food.

Discipline? Nothing to worry about, a little shouting, a little bullying — for the benefit of outsiders, of course. Must keep up appearances, you know.

The work? Nil, absolutely nil. Spent half the day in our tents. Cigarettes? Oh, the staff trotted over to the canteen for us. Buy anything we wanted.

This new gear? Now you're getting inquisitive my boy. Naughty, naughty. Ask no questions, remember. But just between you and I, if you want an expenses-paid holiday, get shoved in clink, it's grand!

So, frustrated, we retired in baffled defeat and there the mystery stood for some time. None was willing to commit a crime in order to solve the problem of F.P. De-luxe, until one night the D.C. (Desperate Characters) celebrated, and in drunken confidence revealed their secret.

"Here's how we did it," quoth the rash one, eyeing a bottle of beer with unmistakable yearning.

"T'anks," as we passed it over. "We're the best 'clifty-wallahs' in G..... Staff told us so. You see we had a job unloading Army stores from the wagons at Ordnance. Being light-fingered gentlemen we did our best but unfortunately on our return to camp we went through a pretty thorough search. What we did get in was only small and scarcely worth the risk. Came the brain storm! We evolved a scheme.

Next day a man reported to M.O. with a blistered finger.

"how come?" says the M.O.

"Trying to cut wood with a pick," says our man.

"I'll see Sar-Major gets you an axe," spake M.O., swallowing hook, line and sinker. At breakfast we drew Sar-Major aside.

"We hear you want an axe," we chanted.

"So what?" said S.M., sarcastic like.

"We saw some simply gorgeous axes yesterday," we simpered. "They had lovely big heads and dinky little handles. We could get you one easy. Joe could put the head in his waist band and Frank have the handle up his trouser leg, but we're bound to get caught at the gate," we murmured all mournful.

"H'mm," said the S.M. "I really think you'd pass all right."

We departed gleefully but he called us back. Had he changed his mind? Was success in ourgrasp, only to be snatched by a cruel fate.

"Do you think," he muttered hoarsely, "do you think you could manage a pair of boots, size 9?"

So that's how it was. I saw blokes leave camp thin as rakes, only to return swollen beyond belief, odd socks and towels peeping coyly from their trousers. The search was a mere formality. The Staffs were newly outfitted, Sar-Major (who was quite a benovolent old bean under his hard exterior) had new boots, the cook-house a new axe, and the prisoners everything from bootlaces to canvas cots. So you see, crime sometimes does pay; that surplus gear I sold to you chaps brought in a tidy sum which more than covered my fine. It's the one time justice has back-fired. Kismet, I calls it. "Gimme another drink!"

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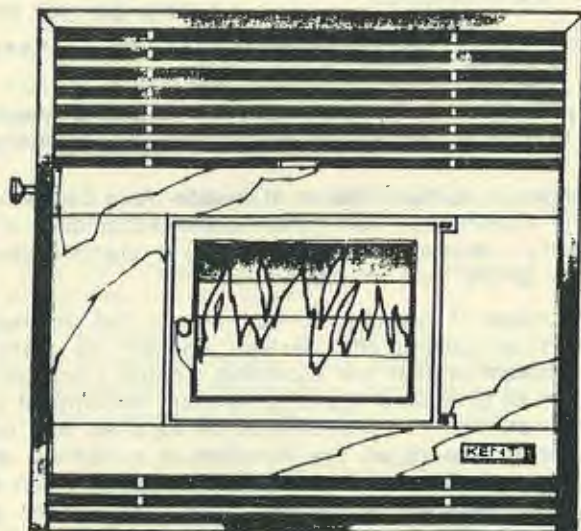
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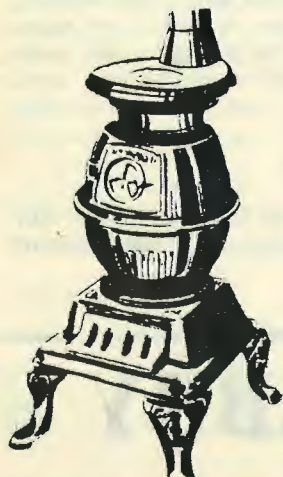
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End of a long, long night

I was brought up in Flensburg, a peaceful little fishing town in Germany, right at the Danish border at the Baltic Sea, where I worked as a telephone operator on the local exchange. When heavy bombing on Kiel started I was transferred there, as the exchange had lost a lot of operators.

In Kiel I spent the most terrifying months in my life. Twice my friends and I were buried alive when the shelter roof caved in, and we were dug out after twelve hours. Once four of us had to dig ourselves out, stone by stone. Day after day running through burning streets trying to help people who could not run, watching mothers carry small babies and holding on to toddlers to find a little space in a shelter, clinging to a few belongings they would not want to lose, even if they lost their homes. Soaking one's clothes by the firepumps to save them from sparks. Snatching a meal when one could, snatching some sleep when permitted, but most of the time working and running and working to keep some communication going in all the chaos around us. Then one day it seemed to be all over—there was no exchange left and no one to give us any orders. I hitch-hiked back to Flensburg and reported back to duty.

The war was not over, but it couldn't possibly last much longer. With the early spring of 1945 came the ships from East Prussia across the Baltic Sea, people fleeing from the advancing Russian troops. Women and children huddled in blankets, sitting on decks of over-crowded ships, just waiting and wondering. All schools were closed and made into refugee transit-centres. From the south one trainload after another came with wounded soldiers. Every cinema, theatre, dance-hall and barrack was an emergency hospital, while the remaining government argued that we should defend our town to the last brick. But there could hardly have been one fit man in town, and we faced this proposition with horror.

A large part of Germany was already occupied. Our Post Office restroom was used as a radio station. One day, while I was on duty, we were told that Admiral Dönitz would come to make his last speech to the German nation. We listened anxiously and when he finished he turned, ashen faced and without any pomp and ceremony, walked past, and left the Post Office. The war was over. Germany had surrendered and at that moment only one thought struck my mind—we women would not have to fight.

British troops were coming closer and as I speak English I was asked to stay on the exchange with three other women in case we were needed when the Post Office was taken over by British troops. Three days and nights we waited and at four o'clock in the morning we heard a tank rolling into the courtyard. We heard soldiers' boots on the stairs. Icy panic gripped us; my hands, my legs, and my spine seemed to detach themselves, my mind went blank and I felt like passing out. The door opened behind us; we three sat at the switchboard too frightened to look round. Putting her hand on my shoulder my supervisor said: 'If you please, Miss.' Slowly I got up. In front of me stood a tall British officer, behind him four soldiers, guns ready. I do not know if he sensed my fears, but there was the faintest smile on his face, and I thought, 'Thank God, he is human'. He gave his orders politely and I translated. After searching the building they left.

So the last square mile of Germany was occupied. I looked out of the window and saw, in the first light of dawn, a troop of German soldiers marching south as the last prisoners of war. I went home to my mother and slept and waited and hoped that my father would return soon. No bells of joy were ringing for us, but in all the confusion there seemed to be for us women and children a gleam of hope of a new beginning somewhere ahead of us.

DESERT BOMB RUN

ALEXANDER CLIFFORD, one of the most brilliant of the Desert War Correspondents, wrote this account of a normal R.A.F. night raid over the Western Desert, North Africa.

I was still in bed at the time of Bardia and the doctor forbade me to go to Tobruk. But I thought I could do something else. I applied for another operational flight with the RAF, and I was luckier than before. They said I could go on a bombing raid the following night.

The night before it happened I went with the pilots of a Wellington squadron to a sandy, fly-haunted shack beside a remote desert airfield to get the Squadron-Leader's instructions.

"Blitz on tonight," he told us. "Take-off after midnight at 10-minute intervals. There are five targets — you can take your choice."

I looked on rather diffidently while they clustered around maps and photographs and filled in the details, discussing the weather, debating the relative merits of the targets. For them it was pretty nearly routine, but not for me. I felt the sensation I always feel before going on one of those giant racers at fun-fairs — excitement more or less

(Continued on Page 23)

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Too early

A pink elephant, a green kangaroo and two yellow snakes strolled up to the bar.

"You're here a little early boys," said the barmaid, "he isn't here yet."

★

★

He was robbed!

Joe had been out of town with a dazzling blonde, and as he returned home the rosy tints of dawn began to color the skies. Marshalling his inner resources, he managed an air of quiet sobriety before the suspicious eye and clapping tongue of his wife.

Suddenly, as he was undressing, she punctuated her harangue with a sharp, gasping intake of air.

"Joe," she asked through clenched teeth, "where's your underwear?"

Clearly, Joe perceived that his boxer shorts were, indeed, missing. Then inspiration struck.

"My God!" he cried, with aggrieved dignity. "I've been robbed!"

When it's double or nothing



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strongly tempered with alarm. I looked through the dirty windows and watched the crews loading up with bombs and petrol, and checking over the guns. I wished strongly that I could do something to help.

As darkness fell everyone trooped in for a noisy, boisterous meal of stew, potatoes and onions. The atmosphere was less routine now — there was a mood of suppressed exhilaration. The conversation was nearly all shop, most of it over my head, but I felt pleased when I could contribute some bit of gossip I had picked up at another squadron.

Afterwards, for the few intervening hours, we dozed on straw mattresses. Then, booted, helmeted and very warmly overalled, we walked out to the dimly silhouetted plane.

A moon which looked to my over-excited eye like a luminous slice of melon was just topping the horizon. In a matter of minutes we had climbed aboard, roared down the winking flare-path and lifted gently into the night. I stood with my head in the little glass bubble which stuck out above the top of the machine, and watched the desert sink away into a misty blur. Little white clouds drenched with moonlight sailed past. A dim white streak was the coastline, and the sea beyond it looked like another desert.

There was nothing to see. I crouched down, trying to keep warm and watching spangles of stars slide past the little glass bubble above my head. Vaguely in my earphones I heard the crew chatting on the intercom about height, courses, clouds and navigation signals. As the plane droned on into Libya I feel asleep.

Then someone was shaking me awake and yelling "Over target!" I fumbled my way forward and peered out of the plane's transparent nose, to see earth and sky slashed with flame.

Groups of big yellow flashes were bombs landing. Clusters of incendiaries wove crazy patterns of dazzling white flame athwart the landscape. A parachute flare hung like a great orange star burning steadily above the bay.

To my unaccustomed eyes the ack-

ack barrage seemed stupendous. String after string of red tracer-shells spurted up like ruby necklaces. Ack-ack shells bursting splashed the sky with sudden stars and left little balls of smoke hanging aimlessly about.

It was our turn to go in. Just for one second there was icy panic inside me and I wished I hadn't come. I wondered whether I was trembling with cold or fear. Then I grew too excited to be afraid.

I clambered back through the plane's darkened belly, past the bomb-aimer lying flat on his stomach, and over the racks of sleek yellow bombs waiting to be released. Clumsily I eased myself into the rear-gunner's turret — and another, bigger bubble, half-filled with intricate gun mechanism. That was my grandstand seat.

Through my earphones I heard the bomb-aimer's steady monologue: "Bomb-doors open . . . left . . . left . . . steady . . . right . . . steady . . ." then a pause, and then sharply "Bombs gone."

I swivelled my turret around, manoeuvring to see the bombs land. I had almost given them up when the earth below erupted into five flaming volcanoes.

"Plumb in the target area," came the bomb-aimer's voice.

Stuff was coming up all around us. The sky seemed filled with coloured tracers, and the heavy ack-ack guns were firing for all they were worth. By now the whole area was picked out in dazzling lights as cluster after cluster of incendiaries sprang into flame.

The pilot called me up on the intercom.

"We're going in again," he said, "Tell me if anything bursts close behind us."

"Okay," I said. It was icy cold, and my hands were numb as they manipulated the levers to swing my turret.

Back we turned and plunged again into the fantastic blaze of bursting shells. Another flare was burning, and the bay and promontory showed up like a gigantic thumb sticking out into the sea.

We made straight for the target, but showers of tracers met us and barred the

(Continued on Page 24)

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way. The pilot swerved aside and tried from another angle. Again I heard "Bombs gone," and this time I saw flame belch up straight across the road junction at which we were aiming.

Two blinding flashes on my left made me rock in my seat. "Ack-ack shells close behind," I reported to the pilot, and for a couple of seconds we swerved and twisted, eluding the gunners. Then we jockeyed into position for the third run.

This took us slap through the thickets barrage. An Italian cruiser, half sunk, was pumping up stream after stream of tracers. I saw a white one coming straight at me — diamond necklace this time — then it veered off slowly and missed.

Right in the middle of the barrage our bombs fell, and a flare with them. This time the result was spectacular! A large barn-like building flashed into orange flame, and its roof soared gently upward, then fell back in fragments. Swirls of white smoke spiralled up, and as we swung away out to sea I saw two more explosions.

Those were our last bombs. But we

still had some leaflets to drop — why I don't know, for the Italians were going to be given no time to read them. We dropped down to a couple of thousand feet well west of the target and shovelled the packets of pamphlets out through a hatchway. Then we made for home, leaving a faint firework display behind us. My first wild exhilaration at having got out of it alive gave way to the flat feeling which follows a moment of high adventure. While dawn was just glimmering in the east we met a squadron of Blenheims on their way to continue the raid. Then we circled down to our airfields again, to a good hot breakfast of fried bread and bacon.

[From "Three Against Rommel," by Alexander Clifford].

Penny wise

A profound philosophy of life is reflected in the reply of a no-longer-wealthy roué who, when asked what he had done with all his money, said: "Part of it went for liquor and fast automobiles, and part of it went for women. The rest I spent foolishly."

Of Interest To Older Digs

Hope for impotent

NZPA-Reuter Chicago
An ingenious hydraulic device implanted in impotent men can give them an erection at the touch of a switch, according to the latest issue of the "American Medical Association Journal."

The system, which has restored virility to patients of between 21 and 85 years, consists of a pump implanted in the scrotum, a reservoir in the abdomen, and a pair of in-

flatable cylinders in the penis, according to the journal.

When the pump is activated, fluid from the reservoir is forced under pressure into the penis cylinders, causing rigidity. Detumescence is induced by means of a valve, which lowers pressure and returns the liquid to the reservoir.

The journal says the system has been effective for 234 out of 245 impotent men undergoing treatment in the urological department of the medical faculty at Baylor University, Houston, Texas. Ten of the patients were aged over 70.

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BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

RENTAL CARS MODIFIED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE ON REQUEST

New Zealand rental cars are being modified to accommodate disabled drivers.

One rental car firm, Avis, had two bookings for disabled drivers in 1979 and holds similar reservations for this year.

At present the company limits the modification to hand controls for paraplegics and uses Cortina automatics.

According to the New Zealand Rent-a-Car manager, Mr Barry Culham, his company has received only a limited number of inquiries for the service.

Mr Culham points out that a suitable lead time is needed to modify vehicles for the physically disabled drivers. The modification is carried out before hire and the foot control is replaced when the car is returned.

FREE CHECKS FOR BENZENE WORKERS

Present and former employees of an American pharmaceutical factory who may have been exposed to benzene have been offered free physical examinations, according to a report in an American safety magazine.

The offer followed a workman's compensation case hearing in which a former chemical operator claimed benefits for a type of leukaemia linked by researchers to benzene exposure. The operator had worked with the chemical solvent from 1969 to 1974.

The company disputed the claim. It said the sick man could not prove his five-year exposure to benzene caused the leukaemia.

Many employees who worked at the factory were apparently exposed to the solvent when it was stored, until recently, in leaky vials. They rarely used respirators or protective clothing.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has warned that minute traces of benzene are hazardous.

CONDITIONED AIR NOT SO SWEET!

Death can blow through air-conditioning and air-circulating systems in high-rise buildings.

Several traders at the Toronto Stock Exchange were carried unconscious from the exchange floor in December, possible victims of carbon monoxide blowing through the air-

conditioning system.

The victims were diagnosed as suffering from a lack of oxygen.

BEE BROUGHT DOWN TOP-DRESSING PLANE

Aerospace Industries, Hamilton manufacturers of the Fletcher FU24 series of agricultural aircraft, was developing an aircraft modification following a crash caused by a bee.

A plane was substantially damaged when a bee in a fuel tank obstructed the tank outlet, causing the engine to lose power soon after takeoff. While making a forced landing the plane ploughed through two fences.

A report says that the particular aircraft had no previous history of fuel-tank-outlet obstruction, but there had been "several other accidents" arising from this cause in Fletcher aircraft. Some operators had already, on their own initiative, installed finger filters in the tanks to prevent the occurrence.

Arising from this accident a recommendation was made that all Fletcher aircraft be required to have finger-filters installed.

DINING MORE DANGEROUS THAN FLYING!

Lancet, the English medical journal, claims that dining is more hazardous than flying.

Noting that more than 3000 people choked to death in the United States each year, Lancet said recently that "unfortunately no clear-cut optimal treatment emerges" for the victim of a "cafe coronary."

The so-called Heimlich manoeuvre — a bear-hug or fist thrust applied to the upper abdomen to expel the chunk of food blocking the larynx — had been criticised as ineffective when tested on model larynxes with chunks of meat or segments of orange, the Lancet said.

The Lancet concluded that the traditional remedy for anyone choking — a slap on the back — was "by no means to be derided, but it must be hard and smart." If that fails, it said, try the Heimlich method.

The individual who chokes in solitude ought, if instinctive coughing fails, try "to drive the arm of a chair or the knob of a balustrade, into his epigastrium (upper abdomen) . . .

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and to hope that Heimlich is right," said the Lancet.

DIABETIC DRIVERS & HEAVY TRUCKS

Should diabetic drivers hold heavy goods vehicle licences? This question was discussed in Britain when a lorry driver was in danger of having his HGV licence revoked after he notified the licensing authority that he was suffering from diabetes and was being treated with insulin. It was revealed that there are many diabetic HGV drivers in Britain. They were granted a licence because either the authority was not aware of their condition or they had been set a limited radius for driving and were not involved in loading or unloading. The driver in question retained his licence as his journeys are limited and he does not load or unload.

**WATCH WHERE YOU
WALK IN BRITAIN!**

Traffic statistics released in Europe show that Britain is the safest place to drive, but not to walk. A report issued in 1978 by the European Common Market countries stated that there were 6570 traffic deaths in Britain and 8927 in Italy.

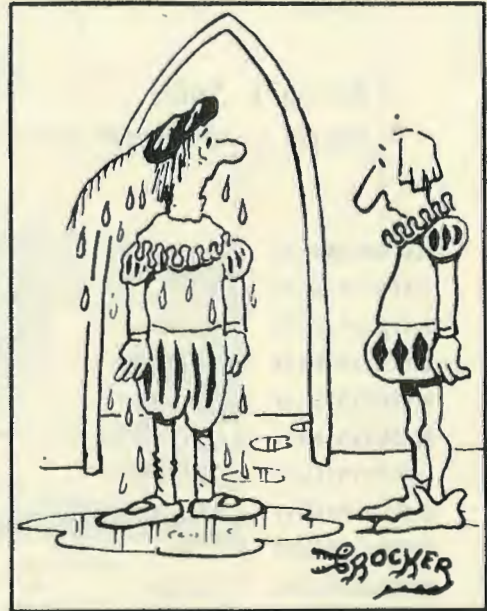
The accident rate for pedestrians in Britain totalled 68,509 people killed or injured in 1976. This toll was higher than any other major European country. The EEC report blames the narrowness of many British roads.

**SAFETY FACTOR IN NEW
WINDOW STANDARDS**

Safety has been taken into consideration in two new window standards published by the Standards Association of New Zealand. The

standards require a vision rail, specified as an opaque strip, to be permanently attached or etched on large areas of glass.

It is hoped that the addition of the strip will help reduce the accidents caused by people walking into sliding-door glass and other large glassed areas.



"I'll be glad when the new draw-bridge arrives."



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Little Jimmy came into the house crying his eyes out.

"What's the matter now?" asked his mother.

"Daddy was driving his new car out of the garage and he scratched the front fender," said Jimmy.

"That's not too serious," soothed his mother. "A big boy like you shouldn't cry at a little thing like that. Why didn't you just laugh?"

"I did," sobbed Jimmy.

★ ★ ★

"Psychoanalysis is a lot of bunk," one drunk said to his bar companion.

"Why do you say that?"

"I've been undergoing analysis for six months and today my analyst tells me I'm in love with my umbrella! Have you ever heard anything so ridiculous?"

"That's pretty crazy," agreed the friend.

"I would say that we certainly hold a sincere affection for each other. But love? ridiculous!"

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G. K. Chesterton.



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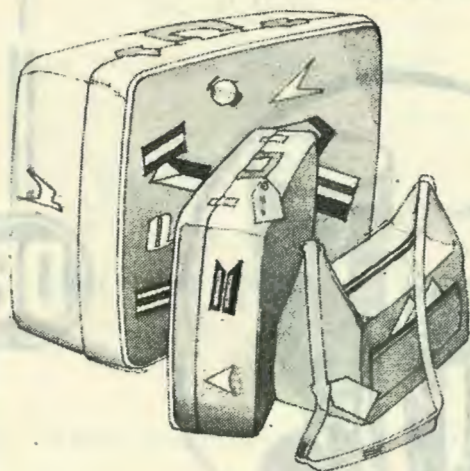
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'Twas as 'Rocky' or 'Mo' that we knew him,
 That lumbering big so and so;
 The one who created new records
 Whilst galloping over the snow.

He came from the outskirts of Blenheim,
 Fair town, the Queen of the South.
 All races he'd previously bet on,
 His horses they came a bad fourth.

He joined with the rest of his cobbers,
 The band in intrepid young men
 Who answered the call of the colours
 And said, "Death to Adolph and Ben."

One day he went off to Egypt
 To finish his training for war;
 When the enemy heard of his coming
 They paled and whispered "Good Lor."

Then came the news, the wonderful news,
 Inot action! Come on! Off to Greece!
 Ole Rocky got shicker, while out on a bender,
 And cleaned up ten Military Police.

They chained him, and bound him, and
 gagged him,
 They carried him off on a boat,
 And Rocky swore blue, pink and purple,
 "I'll get Old Adolph's pet goat."

He saw from the foot of Olympus
 A view that was blue-pencilled divine,
 And straight away sought consolation
 In gallons of rich Grecian wine.

Then came the day that he'd looked for,
 When Jerry appeared from the blue,
 Mo cried, as he grabbed a big cannon,
 "You so and so blighter you're through."

But the Hun didn't wait for our Harold,
 The B-cows joined into the fun,
 They threw lots of shells, bombs and whizz-
 bangs,
 Which put our poor boy on the run.

He sized up the lay of the country,
 He knew that his speed wasn't fast,
 When he flew over mountains and gullies
 Savidan's time was simply outclassed.

He clambered up hills and thru' valleys,
 His face it was smothered in dirt,
 He ran like a "red-coloured steam engine,"
 The wind even blew off his shirt.

And then he collected some shrapnel,
 He was feeling humpy and sore,
 'Twas only his foot and his finger,
 But Rocky said, "Cripes! What a War!"

He staggered right down to the foreshore,
 God knows how he got on the boat.

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Lock Repairs

Coin Operated
Machine Servicing

Master Systems

Combination and
Code Changing

Intruder Alarms

Security Lock
Systems



But before you could say Jacky Robson,
Our hero at last was afloat.

They dug in his wounds with their bayonets,
And got souvenirs for the boys,
Poor Rocky didn't say much, you know, not
him—
He just made an 'elluva noise.

But now all is peaceful and quiet
He's right back in Egypt's fair clime,
He remembers the gang back in goold ol N.Z.
And says, "Strewth, I'll drop them a line."

The living room

When Cleo's parents threatened
to forbid her to see her boyfriend
unless he told them why he'd been
there so late the night before, she
finally began to talk.

"Well," she said, "I took him into
the loving room, and —"

"That's 'living,' dear," her mother
interrupted.

Said the happy girl. "You're tell-
ing me!"

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STOCKISTS OF ALL

MEN'S

BOYS'

and

LADIES WEAR

also

TRAVEL BAGS

and

MANCHESTER LINES

DRY CLEANING:

In by 10am

Out by 2pm

crossword puzzle 18

ACROSS

1. Trudge
5. Shine
10. Trunk compartment
14. Ireland
15. Range of hills
16. Scandinavian poem
17. Quantity of paper
18. Small shrub
19. Heathen object of worship
20. Improbable
22. Breakfast food
24. Hereditary factor
25. Office cabinet
26. Faints
29. German writer (1776-1822)
33. Not on time
34. Japanese ship
35. Assam silkworm
36. Priest's linen robe
37. Disciple
40. Benedictine title
41. Part (Ger.)
43. Old stringed instrument
44. Investigate thoroughly
46. Calculate
48. Routine tasks
49. Ablution
50. God (Sp.)
51. Texas border city
54. Separated
58. Whistling swan
59. Famous

61. Bull (Sp.)
62. Bench
63. Foolish
64. Treasury agent (comp. wd.)
65. Annual TV award
66. Juniper tree
67. The Orient

DOWN

1. Country in South America
2. Claim on property
3. Spoken
4. Minor deity
5. Leafy vegetables
6. City in France
7. Small whirlpool

8. Stage of life
9. Compassionate
10. Type of ancient galley
11. Discourteous
12. Small forest ox
13. Loud shout
21. Country in eastern Africa
23. Pixie
25. One's strong point
26. Condition
27. Division of Great Britain
28. Planet's course
29. Speed
30. Enthusiasm
31. Weeping daughter of Tantalus
32. Appellations

34. Oral cavity
38. Theoretical
39. Hebrew priest's vestment
42. Freedom
45. Ribbon ornament
47. Frantic
48. Partly burned piece of coal
50. Chaperone (Sp.)
51. Mislaid
52. Turkish standard
53. Wander
54. Dutch "town"
55. Capital of Italy
56. Geological periods
57. Word of warning
60. Undivided

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(Answer on Page 36)



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4. They have a much tighter turning circle.
5. They can ride over speed restriction ramps at twice the speed of private cars.
6. Their batteries, radiator water, oil and tyres never need to be checked.
7. The floor is cunningly designed to double as an ashtray.
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9. They can be driven for as far as 100 kilometres with the oil warning light flashing.
10. They need cleaning less often, specially inside.
11. The suspension is reinforced to allow the weekend carriage of bricks, concrete slabs and other home-building materials.
12. Company cars are adapted to allowed reverse gear to be engaged while the vehicle is moving forwards.
13. The tyre walls are designed to cope with bumping into and riding over kerbstones.
14. Unusual and alarming engine noises are easily eliminated by turning up the radio.
15. Company cars need no security. They may be left anywhere unlocked with the keys in the ignition.
16. They have extra longlife batteries so that their drivers do not have the fag of remembering to switch off the lights at night.
17. Company cars with flat tyres may be driven to the nearest garage instead of having their wheels changed on the road.
18. Only company cars are able to leave the road's in and chase after animals in the bush for a closer look.
19. They are specially sand and waterproofed for fishing expeditions on remote beaches.

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* **ACCIDENT**

* **MARINE**

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