

CROSSFIRE



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EDITORIAL . . .

School holidays are a busy time for the association as this is when we reach an employment peak with our schoolboy gardening scheme. We have a semi-permanent "workforce" who have their regulars to look after right through the year, but comes holiday time and it seems half the boys at Marlborough College descend on us looking for work. So far, this year, we have paid out \$573.00 which at \$2.10 per hour represents 273 hours work looking after lawns, gardens, hedges, etc., for our widows and aged veterans. Some of these lads take a bit of supervising but generally they're keen, hard-working and we receive good reports from our members on the standard of their work.

Sometimes, because of the weather or required start-time on a job, the boys have to wait at the RSA to start work. One such lad was waiting to begin a job for a veteran and in the meantime was sent out to weed one of the gardens around the bowling green. A check at 10am found him industriously employed but next day our gardener, Allan Register, was hopping mad. Syd Robinson had given us 12 dozen surplus Iceland poppies, small plants which Allan had spent several hours planting. Our gardening lad mistook them for weeds and dug them all in. In due time the boy reported to me and I had visions of Allan throwing the job in, so at morning tea next day I warned the staff not to say anything while I explained the "true" story to Allan.

After he had sugared his tea and taken the first bite from his toasted cheese sandwich, I said to Allan: "Have those chaps from the Department of Ag and Fish seen you yet?" Allan said, "No, what do they want?"

I said, "Well, Allan, they're really after someone's blood. Those poppies you planted are the opium variety and the young jokers are bleeding the opium from the seed pods and making heroin."

"Gee," said Allan. "I've got a lot of those at home too!"

"Anyway Allan," I said, "that's why we had to dig them all in."

I thought nothing more about the matter, feeling happy that the explanation had calmed Allan's wrath and that he would now stay in our employ. Next thing, the lad came racing back and said: "I had to tell Mr Register the truth about the poppies."

"What on earth for?" I asked.

"He had started to dig in all the other poppies in the garden!"

I must say Allan took the joke very well, and said it was just as well he found out what had happened as he was going to have an argument with the people at the Ag and Fish Department and was going to dig in his own Iceland poppies at home.

Please remember our schoolboy gardening scheme and if you know of anyone who needs assistance please let us know. It's like all of our welfare work, if we don't hear about it we can't do anything. There's nothing worse than hearing a widow or veteran say "The RSA has done nothing for me," but it's got to start from someone — somewhere.

—PAUL BRODIE

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY

A short commemoration service will be held at the War Memorial on Sunday, September 21 at 11am, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

NEW MEMBERS

55883 C. MITCHELL (Mrs)
13331 J. W. SMITH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After the inactivity which I wrote about in the August Crossfire, this month has been quite the reverse. A lot of activity has taken place with visits which we are always pleased to host plus other goings on. What a jolly crowd they are, and both Sheila and I can now understand why it is that our own members look forward to going down to their club every other year. They very kindly invited us to join with them for lunch and I was very pleased to be able to welcome them on your behalf.

I mentioned briefly that a contingent of soldiers who had been exercising at Molesworth would be coming in the evening. We were expecting them around 7.30pm. We waited around to welcome them but then we got the news that they had been snowbound and couldn't get back to Blenheim. We went home, but at 10.30 a party descended on the club who had somehow managed to extricate themselves from the back country. The indoor bowlers, who had a late permit for the evening, royally entertained them on our behalf. I am grateful to them, and it was a very good example of public relations. They even found supper for them.

I represented the RSA with our liaison officer, Mr Noel Healy, on the occasion of the annual dining-in of the A.T.C. They are a fine bunch of young folk and deserving of the assistance that we give them. They didn't realise (neither did I until Noel briefed me) that if it hadn't been for the financial assistance that we gave after the Government withdrew their support some time ago, they would probably have foundered. When I looked at these lads and lasses I know that it is a worthwhile project we took on and deserving of our continued support.

On August 23 I opened the annual Diggers Indoor Bowls tournament. There were 22 rinks competing and they included teams from Picton, Havelock, Kaikoura, etc. I witnessed the final which was between two town teams and had the pleasure of presenting the trophy to Jim Howe, a member of the executive and skip of the winning team. It was an exciting final and it seems a pity that someone had to lose. The highlight of August for Sheila and myself must be the social that took place on the 30th. Those of you who did go will know what I mean, and those that couldn't manage to get along, should really put yourself out next time and come along.

This report normally appears in the front of the Crossfire magazine and I want to say that the "Wrinklies" really showed the young ones from the Ex-Malayan Association how to do the light fantastic. Perhaps next time, Mr Fidler!

In conclusion, we are still awaiting the plans back from the architects after a few minor alterations and then we shall be into it!

—RON HEMMING

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE MEETING . . .

No response from wives to make funeral chaplets — Rangiora RSA bowlers visit successful — \$200 donated to the Marlborough Refuge Centre (not for battered husbands!) — Council rates rebate received — Inland Revenue Department running battle over taxation continuing — RNZAF Charter Parade on September 19 and members will honour us with their presence after the parade — Battle of Britain Commemoration, the 40th anniversary parade will be held at the War Memorial on September 21 — Picton voluntarily paying us the extra 50c NZRSA wants in capitation — \$1000 bequest left to the RSA in the will of Gordon Cuddon (to be used for welfare purposes) — Municipal Band unable to help us with a Bavarian night until January or February — Anzac Day speaker next year will be the Chief of General Staff, Major-General Brian Poananga, C.B., C.B.E. — Accom-

modation booked at Papakura for next year's Diggers' bowls tournament and air reservations made — General account in credit to \$7532.77 (last year in debt to tune of \$7591.26) — Relief Account showing credit balance of \$3497.98 — two more new members elected — Dick Boddington retiring on September 13 as Head Steward — Successful cabaret evening — Group health scheme not to be undertaken by Marlborough RSA — Applications required for 1981 Anzac delegation to Australia — Service members badge received — Executive given list of members in arrears to do some chasing-up — Protest lodged with Borough Council over method of taking one of our car parks — Sumner-Redcliffs visit being investigated.

. . . and 25 years ago

Present: J. A. Bell, J. M. Walsh, R. T. Scott, R. C. Bush, J. R. Naysmith, L. D. Waters, W. J. Perkins, R. D. Wanden, R. E. Bullen, R. B. Hadfield, G. R. Cole, F. R. Lightfoot, P. Tizard (secretary).

Branches: A. Kitching (Rai), F. Parker (East

Coast), C. Harris (Awatere), T. B. Madsen and C. B. Neilson (Picton), N. Jellyman (Kaikoura).

Mr Waters felt South African burial service inadequate for member who served in other wars, to be investigated — Tenure of Pavilion Lounge to be discussed between executive and bowling club — Marlborough prepared to take two members of Australian Anzac delegation — General account showed a debit balance of £163/8/8 and Relief Account had a credit of £244/4/11 — Wreath to be laid on Battle of Britain Sunday — Memorial Hall and clubroom opened at Awatere — Awatere ball to be held in October — Cleaner to be employed four mornings a week and bar to be open during lunch-hours five days a week — Bar sales were keeping at a good level — Miniature rifle club to shoot against Police and Justice Association — Ten members received Canteen Fund Grants — £3600 so far collected for re-building fund — Difficulty in obtaining material for Loophole — Rates rebate to be applied for RSA — Committee formed to assist in event of a disaster.

. . . and 30 years ago

Present: W. A. Hood, Wanden, Mears, Waters, Munro, Harrison, Bell, Briden, Hammond, Broadley, Horton, Delaney and J. S. Bain (secretary).

Branches: Lyon and Madsen (Picton), Parker (East Coast), Kitching (Rai), West (Seddon), Robinson (Renwick).

Mr Lankow appointed caretaker club and green — Honours board erected — Wapiti head (Mr Hood) placed in lounge — Women's section suggest street sale only instead of house to house on Rose Day (approved) — BBC request name of nominal occupier of the RSA — Secretary nominated — Licensing Control Commission advised charter application to be considered as soon as a public sitting could be arranged in Marlborough — Picton conducting a drive for outstanding subscriptions — President attended a meeting with the Mayor to discuss Marlborough War Memorial — Memorial baths scheme supported — It was decided that men who had served in Korea be invited to use the club facilities while on leave in Blenheim — River Board to be advised repairs to bridge necessary — Sub-branches to be advised of the association's financial position with a request for a donation to the general fund — All members to be asked to donate 7/6 to reduce the overdraft — Xmas hamper raffle to be conducted with tickets at 6d each.

One definition of a Meeting — Committee (with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

"But what," asked Alice, awkward child, "is a committee?"

The Mad Executive looked baffled. He had served on so many committees to decide so many things, but he had never been on a committee to decide what was a committee. Meanwhile he stammered: "A committee, child? . . . Why a committee is an er-ah-um, well, it's a sort of commit . . ."

"A comet!" exclaimed Alice, who had jumped in without giving the Mad Executive a chance to finish. "But how can it be a comet? A comet's a thing away up in the clouds dashing through space but getting nowhere, then suddenly appearing every 100 years or so with a long tail."

"That's right," said the Mad Executive, brightening up, "That's a committee!"

EDITORIAL

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

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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.

Blenheim RSA Women's Section

The attendances at the social afternoons have been most encouraging and the August meeting was no exception. Mrs Kennington warmly welcomed everyone with special mention made to newer members. And to these ladies, if you wish to help at afternoons, have any particular skills you wish to share, please give your name to Mrs Kennington or Mrs Neal. The committee are always searching for entertainment and ideas for demonstrations and talks. Mrs Dora Brooks demonstrated how to arrange flowers simply and effectively in containers that are available in most homes.

With a limited range of blooms, Dora showed us some delightful arrangements; she was easy to listen to and shared some of her floral secrets.

Members are reminded of our

WOMEN'S SECTION SHOP DAY

**TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 21,**

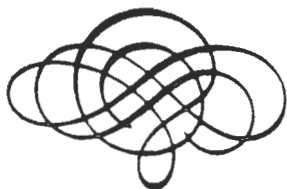
IN CENTREPOINT.

This is a section effort — so please support your Shop Day.

All the proceeds will go towards increasing our monetary donations to the worthy organisations we help.

Any ladies wanting help with material, etc., for the making of goods or, who have this to spare, do please inquire from Mrs Kennington, Mrs Neal or any committee member.

A pleasant, relaxed afternoon was enjoyed at the Veterans' afternoon. One of our veteran guests, Mrs Nees of Renwick, recited three of her Marlborough poems. Local content always creates an interest as was the case with this popular item. Those firm favourites, cards and housie, preceded afternoon tea. Mrs Cath Smith played the piano and led a community sing-a-long.



PICTON WOMEN'S SECTION

Twenty-two members attended the meeting on August 12 and new member Marjorie Harrison was welcomed by our president, June Ireland. The raffle was won by Dorothy Dahlberg.

Those present were treated to a thoroughly entertaining account of her recent world trip by member Margaret McLauchlan. This took us through Hawaii, America, England, Europe and the flattening heat of Muscat. Margaret concentrated on the lighter side of her tour with husband John and her keen sense of humour provided us with an hilarious afternoon.

She certainly needed it when stuck in the fire-escape shaft of a multi-storey hotel in Hawaii, having mistaken the door for that of a lift. The little Japanese gentleman who finally released her must surely have thought that New Zealand women were indeed the friendliest in the whole world to strange men!!

On August 5 some of our members were represented at the Women's Institute birthday party, and enjoyed the varied entertainment and good fellowship.

—JOAN M. TAYLOR.

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PICTON RSA NEWS

During my absence at the August executive meeting it appears I was delegated to replace John Frisken as publicity officer.

This will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best.

Firstly, our thanks to John for his excellent coverage of RSA and club events since "Crossfire" began, along with the many other duties he has performed.

Having been away from the district for two weeks or so my coverage may miss some events, so please bear with me.

On behalf of the executive and members I would like to congratulate Johnny Murrell on the approval of his Merit Badge. Your long service is appreciated, Johnny.

Our social on September 6 was very well attended and included some 18 Blenheim visitors. It was especially pleasing to see Mrs Brown present in an off-duty capacity and I take the opportunity to thank her for the considerable assistance she has given us from the office at Marlborough RSA over the years.

Visiting members are welcome at the club at all times, and we hope with summer approaching to see you more frequently. We are sure we will have your co-operation in the important matter of "signing-in" any wives or guests who may accompany you.

During the month Woodbourne came down for an enjoyable evening of pool.

On September 3, Johnny Knight's retirement party from the NZR took place at the club and we join with his workmates in wishing him and his wife many happy years of relaxation.

Another visit to Westport RSA on October 11 and 12 has a few seats left. We leave at 8am on Saturday per Newmans, returning approximately 6-7pm on the Sunday.

For the information of our newer club members these popular visits usually entail a good get-together at the clubrooms in the afternoon prior to what has to be seen to be believed at about 5pm — "the raffle hour." Definitely not to be missed.

This evolves into a social evening and dance in good old West Coast style. On Sunday morning those wishing to (or capable) play a friendly game of pool or indoor bowls, followed by an excellent luncheon provided by the RSA ladies, before we leave for home.

These visits can be thoroughly recommended. The age barrier among members does not exist and the bus trip there and back is an event of fun in itself.

—CLIVE M. TAYLOR



ADCENTRE

P.O. BOX 217, Blenheim.
Telephone 83-747.

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ADCENTRE

All members are requested to support those who make this publication possible.

THE STORY OF THE SIX-FINGERED ABACUS MAN

The Problem:

A wise old man of ancient China was known far and wide for his wisdom and ability to solve difficult problems. Many men came to him asking for advice.

One day a merchant brought him this problem

I have six men, each skilled with the Abacus. In a short time I am going to need more such men to deal with an increase in my business which will amount to one-fifth as much as I have now. But I cannot afford the capital investment of another man and another Abacus and even if I could, one man would not be enough and two men would be too much. After three moons have come and gone I will no longer need any extra men, for my business will then return to normal. Oh, Wise One, what shall I do?"

The Solution:

The wise man pondered the problem for several days and finally summoned the merchant.

"The solution to your problem is simple. You must insist that each of the six Abacus men who work for you must now grow another finger on each hand — and henceforth you must hire only twelve-fingered men to replace them. By doing this your Abacus Department will be increased by exactly one-fifth, and you will not have to hire any extra men."

The merchant smiled, his problem was now solved. He thanked the old man a thousand times and bowed out of his presence.

As he was leaving, he hesitated, and turned to speak to the old man once more.

"Oh Wise One, you have truly given me the solution to my problem. But" . . . he paused " . . . how do I get my Abacus men to grow extra fingers?"

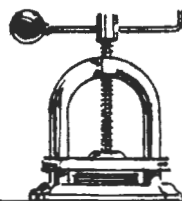
The wise man looked at the merchant — puffed on his pipe for a moment — and said:

"That is a good question, my son, and you are to be commended for asking it. But, alas, I only make policy recommendations and details are up to you."

Oh, to be a maker of policy recommendations!

(From "Porta-Gas News")

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RSA WOMEN'S SECTION

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R. MOFFAT
D. L. S. BORCK

LEST WE FORGET

As we remember, with deep gratitude those who suffered pain and gave their lives for us; let us resolve to do all in our power to preserve the freedom we hold today.

THE SILENT MEMBER

(C. J. DENNIS)

He lived in Mundaloo, and Bill McClosky was his name,
But folks that knew him well had little knowledge of that same;
For he some'ow lost his surname, and he had so much to say—
He was called "The Silent Member," in a mild, sarcastic way.

He could talk on any subject — from the weather and the crops,
To astronomy and Euclid, and he never minded stops;
And the lack of a companion, didn't lay him on the shelf,
For he'd stand before a looking-glass and argue with himself.

He would talk for hours on lit'rature, or calves, or art, or wheat;
There was not a bally subject you could say had got him beat;
And when strangers brought up topics that they reckoned he would balk,
He'd remark, "I never heard of that." But all the same he'd talk.

He'd talk at christ'nings by the yard; at weddings by the mile;
And he used to pride himself upon his choice of words and style.
In a funeral procession his remarks would never end,
On the qualities and virtues of the dear departed friend.

We got quite used to hearing him, and no one seemed to care—
In fact, no happ'ning seemed complete unless his voice was there.
For close on thirty years he talked, and none could talk him down,
Until one day an agent for insurance struck the town.

Well, we knew The Silent Member, and we knew what he could do,
And it wasn't very long before we knew the agent, too,
As a crack long-distance talker that was pretty hard to catch;
So we called a hasty meeting and decided on a match.

Of course, we didn't tell them we were putting up the game;
But we fixed it up between us; and made bets upon the same.
We named a time-keep, and a referee to see it through;
Then strolled around, just casual, and introduced the two.

The agent got first off the mark, while our man stood and grinned;
He talked for just one solid hour, then stopped to get his wind.
"Yes . . . but" sez Bill; that's all he said; he couldn't say no more,
The agent got right in again, and fairly held the floor.

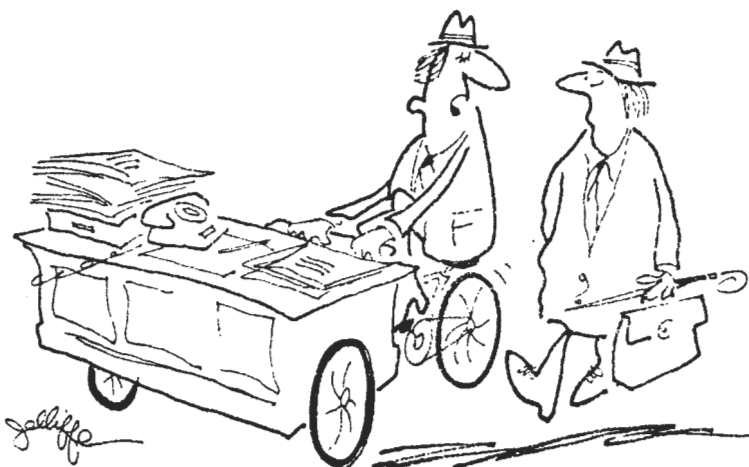
On policies and bonuses, and premiums and all that,
He talked and talked until we thought he had our man out flat.
"I think . . ." Bill got in edgeways, but that there insurance chap
Just filled himself with atmosphere, and took the second lap.

I saw our man was getting dazed, and sort of hypnotised,
And they oughter pulled the agent up right there, as I advised.
"See here . . ." Bill started, husky; but the agent came again,
And talked right on for four hours good — from six o'clock to ten.

Then Bill began to crumple up, and weaken at the knees,
When all at once he ups and shouts, "Here, give a bloke a breeze!
Just take a pull for half a tick and let me have the floor,
And I'll take out a policy." The agent said no more.

The Silent Member swallowed hard, then coughed and cleared his throat,
But not a single word would come — no; not a blessed note.
His face looked something dreadful — such a look of pained dismay;
Then he gave us one pathetic glance, and turned; and walked away.

He's hardly spoken since that day — not more than "Yes" or "No."
We miss his voice a good bit, too; the town seems rather slow.
He was called "The Silent Member," just sarcastic, I'll allow;
But since that agent handled him it sort o' fits him now.



I take work home most nights

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23 BATTALION COMMEMORATIVE TOUR



CONTINUING ON FROM LAST MONTH

Reveille at the Jolie Ville at Giza was at 4am and after a final drive through Cairo to the airport the party boarded the Olympic Airways Boeing 747 bound for Athens. Departure was right on time at 7.45am.

The party again paraded and laid a wreath at the war cemetery at Phaleron just off the main road leading to the Athens airport. The cemetery is beautifully kept with lawns, flowers and terraces. Every war cemetery is beautifully kept with lawns, flowers and terraces. Every war cemetery has an alphabetical list of all who are buried there so that it is a simple matter to find a particular grave. The gravestones are inscribed with the name, regimental number, age and the branch of the service with which the person buried served, such as N.Z. Infantry, etc. Various members of the party had of course served with the battalion at different stages of the war. For the writer, the cemetery at Athens and later at Suda Bay brought back poignant memories of school friends, army friends buried there, nearly all in their early twenties, the regimental numbers so close to one's own. One could not help but wonder how life would have treated them had they not made the ultimate sacrifice.

But in the hotel bar at night sad memories were banished, listening to romantic Greek songs being sung by the locals and sipping steadily at a few ouzous.

Some of the party flew to Thessalonika and then by bus to Larian, via Katerini. With the help of the local villagers, the party was able to locate the exact position the battalion held at Larian. After spending a night there the party journeyed by bus back to Athens, with the farmer members being impressed by the productive nature of the country through which they passed.

These notes are not meant to list the various tourist spots visited, rather they are meant to highlight the commemorative aspects of the tour. Suffice to say as far as Athens is concerned the relics of the Parthenon were interesting but the atmosphere and history surrounding them were completely spoilt by the hordes of tourists being shown over. A day's leisurely cruise and a visit to three Greek islands were a very pleasant feature of our stay in Greece.

Everyone was looking forward to visiting Crete so that the 3am reveille did not bring forth too many grumbles. This time an Olympic Airways Boeing 707 landed us at Chania airport at about 9am. The leaders of the party were presented at the airport with flowers by Cretan girls

dressed in their national costume. The bus soon had us transported to the Crete Chandris Hotel — a multi-storey tourist hotel built at Maleme beach, with every room having its own balcony facing out to the Mediterranean. The fitter members of the party were soon in swimming and it was “eyes front” from the topless sun-worshippers on the beach!

The visit of the party to Crete coincided with the 39th anniversary of the landing of German paratroopers and during the next two days the party paraded eight times at commemorative services held in various parts of the island. Wreaths, some of which had been brought from New Zealand, were laid. Perhaps the most moving ceremony was at Koly Nbari Memorial, for it was here that the German occupation forces shot 23 young Cretan cadets — members of the Greek Naval College. This was re-enacted and as the name of each cadet was read out, a burst of machine-gun fire followed.

Hospitality was extended to the party at the Air Force Officers' Club and at the Naval Academy and at the latter we met five members of a British Parliamentary delegation, one of whom, Sir Bernard Braine, was later to entertain us at the House of Commons in London. During the ceremony at Galatea, the parade was led by Major General Sandy Thomas, a now much-decorated and former commander of the battalion. As a subaltern in the Battle of Crete he led a bayonet charge up the same street as the party marched, thus recapturing the town. Also present at the same ceremony was Roy Farron, well known British author. It was he who commanded a tank in the Gallatas area until it was knocked out. A wreath was also laid at the German cemetery and at this function a few Germans were present, including General Baron Felix von der Heide from Munich, who explained that he had been a signals captain with the paratroopers at the Crete landing. During the services the Mayor of Chania, a Greek general, and army, navy and air force officers paraded. The Australian and New Zealand Consuls and their wives were present along with the British Military Attache. A touch of youth and beauty was added by the presence of the three teenage daughters of the New Zealand Consul.

On the final day of ceremonies a visit was made to Chania Hospital and after meeting the Superintendent and matron over whisky and cakes in the boardroom, the nurses in our party were conducted over the hospital. The highlight of their visit was to the Children's Ward where the young Cretan nurses were keen to exercise their English as most of them were required to take English as a second language as a part of their education. The 23rd Battalion Association



MAADI RAILWAY STATION

had asked its members to contribute to a fund to be presented to the hospital as an expression of their admiration for the people of Crete and in recognition for what they had done for the New Zealand Forces during the period of the Battle and subsequently. A sum of about 80,000 Greek Drachma (about \$NZ2100) had been subscribed and the hospital authorities were to use this fund for an intensive care unit. Incidentally, it was at this stage the only real casualty occurred on the trip when one of the wives fell and broke her hip. Following the visit to the hospital the party attended a service at the church at Chania and this was the last formal occasion with the band playing, soldiers presenting arms, etc. In the Greek churches it is apparently usual for the congregation to stand right through the service! In the evening the party attended an evening meal at the Prefecture where the Mayor spoke briefly and we were entertained by Cretan dancing. The visit to Crete had been nostalgic, particularly for those of the party who had fought on the island, tempered by the visit to the graves lying in the beautifully kept cemetery along the gentle slopes over Suda Bay. For the whole party it was with great regret that our visit could not have been longer to an island of friendly people and unspoiled countryside. The only jarring note of our visit was that when passing the gaol we were informed that two New Zealanders were imprisoned there on drug charges! After yet another early start we embussed on an Olympic Air Bus bound for Athens and Rome and if the Editor is still friendly, I will describe aspects of the journey across Europe in a final article in next month's Crossfire!



EL ALAMEIN CEMETERY

Charity

After taking his beautiful secretary out to lunch, the suave executive said: "It's national Sex Week - would you care to contribute?"

She smiled sweetly and replied, "I already gave at the office!"

**NORM FOWKE
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REPORT ON THE 17th RSA DOMINION INDOOR BOWLING TOURNAMENT — 1980

This year the venue was Palmerston North and was played over the weekend June 28-29. In all ways it proved to be a most successful tournament — the organisation was superb and everything ran like clockwork. On arrival all teams were issued with tickets — on production of the mighty dollar — and these tickets covered all your requirements for meals, entertainment and drinks for the whole weekend.

The tournament was played some distance from the local RSA — in the A. & P. Show Buildings and Pascal Street Stadium.

The tournament committee did a really wonderful job and we made a point of congratulating them before we left. There were 98 teams entered and it was played in one room under NZIBF rules. It was a terrific sight to see 49 mats going at once. Of the 98 teams, only two were from the "Mainland," namely North Otago and, of course, Blenheim. Incidentally, in the main, most teams were shown on the team boards as towns and not as associations. Strangely enough it was North Otago who defeated us in the qualifying round — we had to achieve seven points but managed only six from five games. A consolation tournament was arranged for non-qualifiers and our team was eliminated in our second game. Beaten yes! But not disgraced! The finals were played on the Sunday afternoon. In the championship Wairarapa defeated Hamilton 16-15 and in the consolation Palmerston North beat Hastings 11-10. With both these games tension was on all the way and it was interesting to note that in each game it was the final bowl that decided the win.

From inquiries made around the teams — though of course it was not possible to ask all — it would appear that no elimination tournaments are held to decide entrants. Any financial RSA members can make up a team and enter through their RSA secretary. Our RSA office in Blenheim have a form now for entry to the 1981 tournament.

Marlborough RSA have elected to assist a team to go each year and have also decided that the winning rink of the annual diggers tournament will be the local official entry sponsored by our local association and this is indeed a truly wonderful gesture and one which could well be passed on to other RSAs. Next year's tournament is at Hastings and the 1982 event will be at Tauranga.

It was noticeable that there were players over a wide range of years — some six or eight World War One chaps — the eldest 85 years — our own much revered Bert Mogridge could well have been in second or third place age-wise and still manages to get close to kitty quite often. There were quite a number of chaps who had obviously been overseas since World War Two.

Some centres had more than one team entered — among them Stokes Valley, Hastings, Palmerston North, Upper Hutt, Levin, Wanganui and several others.

Your local team, Merv Bentley (s), Ian McDonald (3), Norm Jellyman (2) and Bert Mogridge (lead) all enjoyed the tournament immensely and wish to say thank you to everyone who assisted their going. Finally, although we did not qualify on the mat — we certainly did "jug-wise" when it was all over!

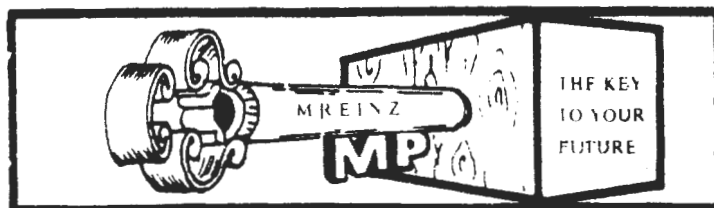
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THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARMY SERVICE CORPS

A BRIEF HISTORY — COMPILED BY TONY INWOOD, TPT SGT

The Royal New Zealand Army Service Corps proudly traces its history back to the British Royal Army Service Corps. In 1794 a corps of wagonners was formed in the United Kingdom and was subsequently renamed the Royal Wagon Train. In 1855 it became the Military train. Elements of the Military Train served in New Zealand with the Imperial Forces during the Maori wars.

The Army Service Corps was formed in 1888 and in 1968 the British Army reorganised the corps into the Royal Corps of Transport, with the responsibility of supplies going to the Ordnance Corps. Catering remains a separate Corps in the British Army.

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The New Zealand Army Service Corps was formed in 1913 as part of the New Zealand military Forces. Units of the corps served in Samoa, Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine and France during WW1. The corps did not include any Regular Forces until June 1, 1942, when a N.Z. permanent A.S.C. of 12 other ranks was formed. From 1922 until the outbreak of WW2 the total strength of the corps, including Territorials and Regulars, was approximately 200 including all ranks. However on the outbreak of WW2 the corps was expanded, reaching a maximum strength of approximately 12,000 all ranks.

Units of the corps served in both the Pacific and the Middle East. A variety of corps units were raised during WW2, as follows; (a) HQ CNZASC, (b) Reserve Mechanical Tpt, (c) Composite Companies, (d) Supply Company, (e) Petrol Company, (f) Ammunition Company, (g) Tank Transporter Company, (h) Field Bakery, (i) Motor Ambulance Company.

An additional Transport Company was formed in 1946 from units serving in Italy and saw further service in Japan with the Commonwealth Occupation Forces. In 1946 H.M. King George VI granted the corps the title "Royal," in recognition of its service during the 1939-45 war and in the same year three regular companies of the corps were formed as part of the Interim Army. These units were incorporated into the Regular Forces formed in 1948 and with the passing of the Compulsory Military Training Act in 1949, Territorial units of the corps were reformed as part of the N.Z. Division.

In 1950 emergency forces were raised for service in Korea and the corps was represented by a Transport Company and a Transport Sub-Unit. RNZASC personnel have served on active service in various locations since 1950. These include Malaya and Borneo 1957-63, South Vietnam 1965-72. Since 1946 the Corps has seen many organisational changes. The most recent reorganisation saw the forming of Home Command and Field Force Companies.

In 1974 a Transport Company was formed in Singapore. The 1979 Army reorganisation meant another major change for the corps, including the change of role from RNZASC to RNZ Corps of Transport. To reflect the changing role of the army and to conform to our allies, the supply function has now passed to the RNZ Army Ordnance Corps.

I will now set down some further history and traditions of the corps.

Founder of the Corps: General Sir Redvers Buller, VC, GCB, GCMG.

Date of Corps Inception: December 11, 1888.

Corps Motto: Nil Sine Labore (Nothing Without Labour).

Corps Badge: An eight-pointed star, the topmost point replaced by a Crown and within the star a laurel wreath bearing a scroll inscribed with RNZCT within the Garter and Motto including the Royal Cipher EIIR.

Regimental or Corps March: Wait for the Wagon.

Origin of Corps March: The 1st Army Service Corps (1869) are responsible for the creation of the Regimental March of the Corps. On the first occasion the Corps marched past in a ceremonial review at Aldershot in 1875 it was discovered that the now Official Regimental March already existed. The Duke of Cambridge who was in the official party was hurriedly consulted and ordered that the popular American song "Wait for the Wagon" should be played. From this event the tune was officially adopted as the Regimental March. In 1946 the Regimental Bugle Call and the Trek Song were added.

The Corps Colours: Gold, dark blue and white, originated as follows:

Gold: From the colour of the lace worn with the blue uniform of the Corps and its predecessors

Dark Blue: From the blue uniform worn originally by the military train and now worn as a dress uniform.

White: The colour of facing or piping on the original uniform of the Military Train.

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SUMNER LIFEBOAT

SUMNER LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (INC.)

Generally considered the oldest marine rescue organisation in the Southern Hemisphere and certainly in New Zealand, the Sumner Lifeboat Institution was founded in 1898 and was modelled on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution of Great Britain.

Founded by public subscription and manned by local unpaid volunteers, it has provided a 24-hour, year-round emergency sea-rescue service around the Canterbury coast during the 82 years of its existence.

Originally founded to assist commercial vessels in distress when crossing the dangerous Sumner Bar to the port of Christchurch at Ferrymead, the institution, since that time, has kept abreast of changing marine development, pursuits, commercial and recreational activities that have made it a model for other areas to emulate.

Originally equipped with a four-oared English built lifeboat, Rescue, it now boasts a 39ft English Liverpool lifeboat, Rescue III, which has a range of 200 nautical miles at 7½ knots, a 15ft jet surfboat, Aid III, capable of 30mph for four hours, a well-equipped Landrover as a mobile control centre and a permanent control centre tower on top of Cave Rock in the middle of the Sumner beach. All four units are equipped with SSB R/T as well as CB for efficient communications. Rescue II, a 30ft single-engined, self-righting English lifeboat was transferred to Kaikoura 10 years ago to establish a new station after having served the Sumner Institution for 40 years.

Crew training throughout the year occupying a minimum of fortnightly exercises ensures that within five minutes of the alarm sounding, all units are operational and ready to handle any emergency at sea which that particular occasion demanded.

The Institution enjoys a harmonious relationship with the Lyttelton Harbour Board, Christchurch City and surrounding councils, Police Department, Ministry of Transport (Marine Division), Water safety Council and all other organisations engaged in marine SAR. During its long years of service the institution has assisted to safety over 1500 persons as well as salvaging many hundreds of thousands of dollars in sea-going craft.

The biggest headache throughout the years has been the seeking of funds with which to maintain, operate and up-grade its equipment. Government sourced revenue has often been sought but very seldom forthcoming with the result that much ingenuity and dedication has been required along with whole-hearted public support to ensure that the necessary tools are available to maintain and continue this community service.

On a more local level the Institution is proud to report that it has probably achieved a world "first." A crew member's wife, Lesley Hayes, has recently joined as a full crew member and to the best of our knowledge she is the first woman to crew on a lifeboat anywhere in the world! It is also pleasing to note that all the crew of the Sumner Institution are members of the Sumner-Redcliffs RSA Club, which is locally known as their unofficial "headquarters." It follows, therefore, that you can be assured of expert personal attention should you get into any form of distress when visiting that club!

Golf widow

He took his wife who was depressed to the psychiatrist and said, "What's-her-name over there says I don't pay enough attention to her."

The doctor asked the woman a few questions and then put his arms around her. He squeezed her tightly and kissed her fervently.

She was no longer blue and depressed, but gay and sparkling.

"See," said the psychiatrist to the husband, "that's the kind of treatment your wife should have. She should have it every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday."

"Well," replied the husband, "I can bring her in on Tuesday and Thursday, but I play golf on Saturday."

FLORIST — MAYFLOWER STUDIO

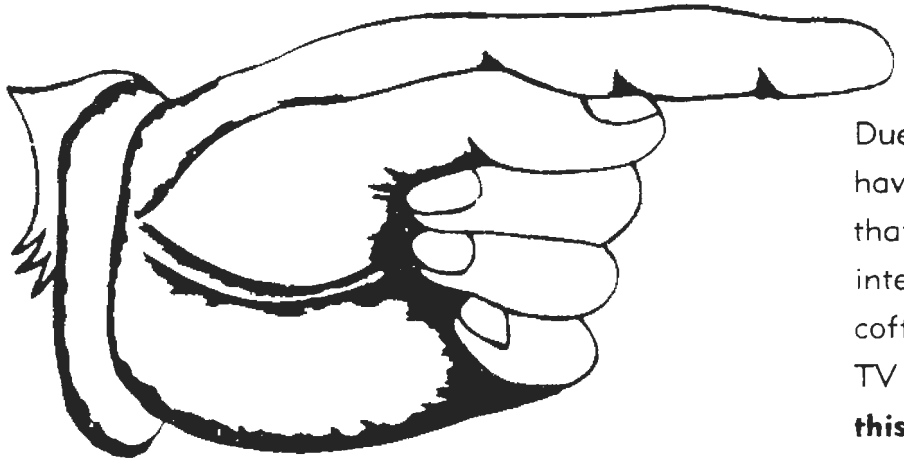


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N.Z. DIVISION'S 100-MILE ROUTE MARCH — CAIRO TO ALEXANDRIA

— By C. M. J. Watson —

Several months prior to our embarkation to take part in the Italian campaign rumour was rife among our troops that no less a person than our famous Divisional Commander, General Freyberg, had suggested that we be given a long and tough march in full battle order with the idea of toughening us up for our part in the forthcoming Italian battles.

As old campaigners we did not give much credence to such talk, so you can imagine our great surprise when Routine Orders announced that it was indeed all on and that details would be announced by unit C.O.

At that time we were stationed at Mena, only a stone's throw from the Pyramids of Egypt and in retrospect imagine that the N.Z. Div. decided it would be safer to begin this march outside the chaotic traffic problems that the inner streets of Cairo would have presented.

The dress order of march was full battle order survival kit comprising . . . khaki cotton shorts and shirt plus socks and army boots and web equipment with bayonet scabbard and bayonet, plus .303 Lee Enfield rifle on shoulder and a khaki army valise strapped to my back containing a complete change of clothes, including underwear, socks, shaving gear, soap, and personal effects, such as photos of my wife and children and those treasured letters from our wives and in many cases photos of Mum, Sis, or younger brother, born after your departure.

As a 27th Vickers Machine Gun Bn member I carried on my chest two khaki web pouches containing ammunition clips for Vickers plus a two-gallon water can in one hand and my gray blankets draped across my valise.

The Army made one firm condition, namely that we should always carry a .303 rifle plus a gas mask and a bivvy tent tied on top of your blanket roll. I will supply a snapshot of myself laden with all the items mentioned to prove my statement. When I posted the snapshot home to my wife I

called it "the human camel."

The epic march was detailed to take place on five successive days, each 20 miles, beginning in the late afternoon to avoid the withering heat of the Egyptian sun. A fleet of trucks followed the marchers to pick up those who collapsed from exhaustion or other ailments and many did pull out, and not all from exhaustion, because several had no intention of doing the full march and provided you had some reasonable excuse, such as a foot blister, you would be excused.

I personally collapsed at the end of the second march but had recovered by the third afternoon and thereafter, like hundreds of others, it became a matter of pride to carry on and complete the full march, which I did, although there were several times when, completely exhausted, it was just sheer will-power that enabled many of us to carry on.

The last quarter of the march was done in the dark and when about a mile from our camp site and the end of that night's march when we were marching from memory and it was sheer agony to put one foot in front of the other — back at the camp site some man had been detailed to beat a drum and several nights that drum mentally marched us home as its note gradually grew louder as we drew nearer.

We were not issued with certificates for completing our walk such as you receive for the Blenheim to Picton annual walk, but now, some 36 years later, I am inwardly just a little proud to have been one of those who completed the Mena to Burg el Arab 100-mile route march.

I feel sure there must be some members of our RSA who took part in this classic.

Unearthly message

A country minister posted this notice on the church door:

"Brother Smith departed for Heaven at 4.30 am."

Scrawled beneath the notice next day was this:

"Heaven - 9.00 a.m Smith not in yet. Great anxiety."

NATIONAL SONG

Written in 1878 by
THOMAS BRACKEN

and set to music by
J. J. WOODS

*God of Nations, at thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices we entreat,
God defend our free-land.
Guard Pacific's Triple Star,
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Men of every creed and race,
Gather here before thy face,
Asking thee to bless this place,
God defend our free-land.
From dissension, envy, hate,
And corruption guard our state,
Make our country good and great,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Peace, not war, shall be our boast,
But should foes assail our coast,
Make us then a mighty host,
God defend our free-land.
Lord of battles, in thy sight,
Put your enemies to flight,
Let our cause be just and right,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Let our love for thee increase,
May thy blessings never cease,
Give us plenty, give us peace,
God defend our free-land.
From dishonour and from shame,
Guard our country's spotless name,
Crown her with immortal fame,
God defend New Zealand.*

*May our mountains ever be,
Freedom's ramparts on the sea,
Make us faithful unto thee,
God defend our free-land.
Guide her in the nations van,
Preaching love and truth to man,
Working out thy glorious plan,
God defend New Zealand.*



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The above device was advertised in an English magazine of June, 1912.

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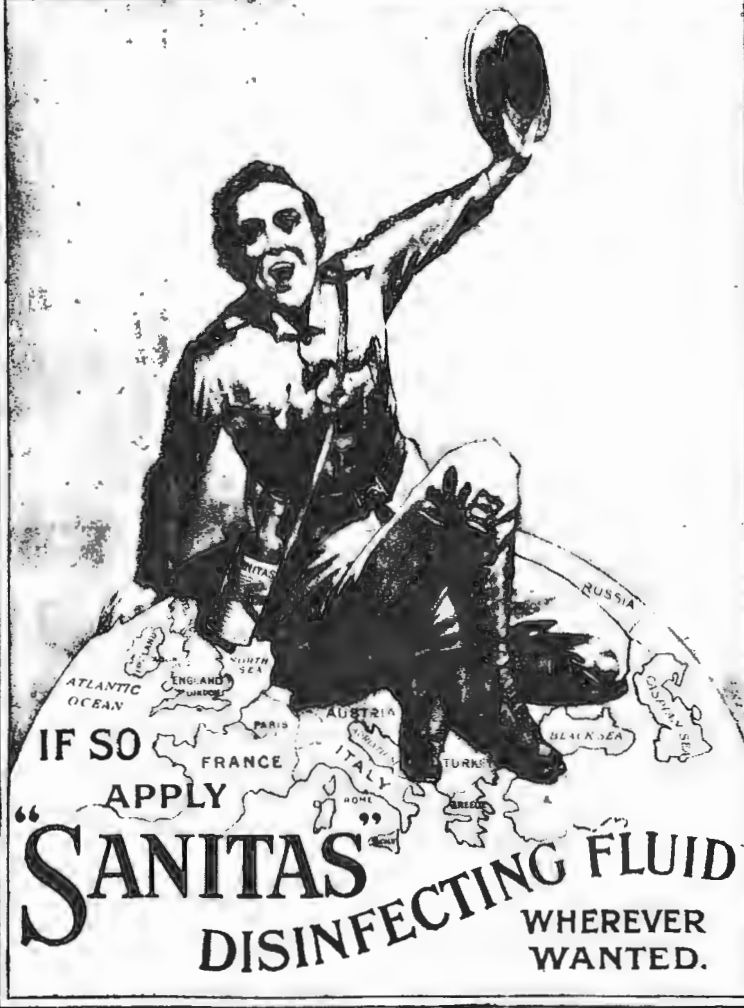
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Chemical warfare

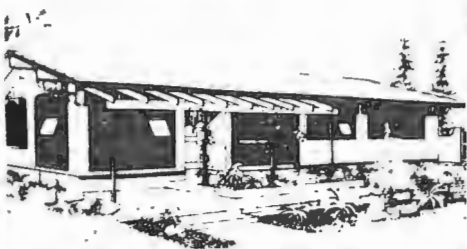
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- Q Is it a foul stroke, or does the striker play the shot again if, when commencing a game, he fails to strike a red?
A It is 4 away and the opponent takes his turn from where the cue-ball has come to rest.
- Q Is it a foul shot if a player strikes a cushion before hitting a red at the opening stroke of the game?
A No.
- Q In a match of more than one frame does the player who has potted the black in the previous game break off in the next frame?
A Not necessarily so. The break should run alternately and be decided by the spin of a coin when an odd number of games are played.
- Q When addressing the cue-ball at the opening stroke of the game the player accidentally touches the ball with the tip of his cue. Can he replace the ball and play again or does he play the cue-ball from the position where it had come to rest?
A At the slightest touch of the ball the player must leave the table and allow his opponent to play from where the cue-ball has come to rest. There is also a penalty of 4 points.
- Q Is the player allowed to play the cue-ball against a cushion without making an attempt to hit the pack of reds at the opening stroke of the game?
A Definitely no. He must at all times make an attempt to strike the ball on.
- Q What is the penalty if a player plays his shot with both feet off the floor?
A The penalty is the value of the ball "on."
- Q Is there any penalty when the striker's tie, coat, shirt sleeve, or any other part of his person touches a ball, even though it does not move it?
A Yes, the penalty is the value of the "ball on," or the value of the ball touched if it is of higher value than that on.
- Q What is the penalty when the cue-ball is forced off the table?
A It is the value of the "ball on" and the next player plays from the D.
- Q What is the penalty when the cue-ball and object ball are forced off the table?
A Again, the value of the "ball on," and if it is a coloured ball it is re-spotted.
- Q Is the player responsible for placing or removing the rest, spider, half-butt, or is it the referee's duty?
A The player may ask the referee to hand him the rest, spider, half or long butt, and he may ask the referee to remove it after his stroke.

PHONE 89-474

David Nott

PHONE 88-398

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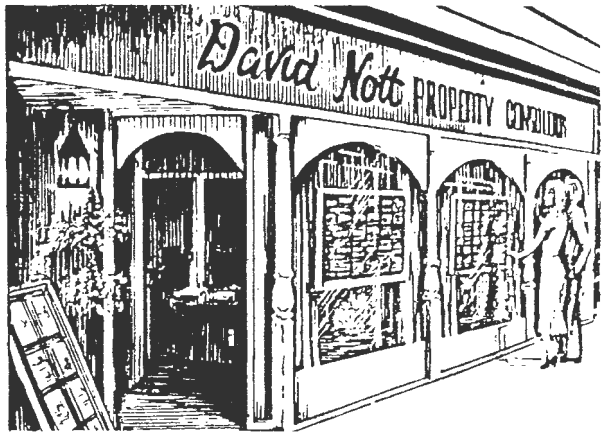
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- Q What is the position if a player pockets more than one red by the same stroke?
A One point is scored for each red pocketed.
- Q Player on a red strikes it, then cannons on to the black, or any other colour, which falls into a pocket. What is the penalty?
A In this case the penalty is a minimum of 4 points unless the colour potted is of higher value, when it is the value of the colour potted.
- Q After potting a red ball is the player allowed to roll the cue-ball behind a coloured ball, leaving a deliberate snooker?
A Yes, this move is a fair shot.
- Q After potting a red a player inadvertently pockets another red instead of a colour. What is the penalty?
A It is 7 away. The highest valued ball on the table.
- Q Having potted a coloured ball the striker inadvertently pots another colour. How many points are forfeited?
A Four points or the value of the second colour potted, if higher.
- Q Striker misses the pack of red balls which is a foul stroke giving 4 away. His opponent is not actually snookered, but he cannot strike any particular red on either extreme edge. Can he claim a free ball?
A You cannot claim a free ball if you are only prevented from striking both sides of a "ball on" by the intervention of another "ball on" or a cushion.





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No. 501. THE BOYS COME TO TOWN.

Stage struck

The theatrical agent, trying to sell a new strip act to a nightclub manager, was raving about the girl's unbelievable 72-26-40 figure.

"What kind of a dance does she do?" the manager asked, duly impressed by the description of the girl's dimensions.

"Well, she doesn't actually dance at all," the agent replied. "She just crawls out onto the stage and tries to stand up!"

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

G. K. Chesterton.



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WEST COAST BRANCH**

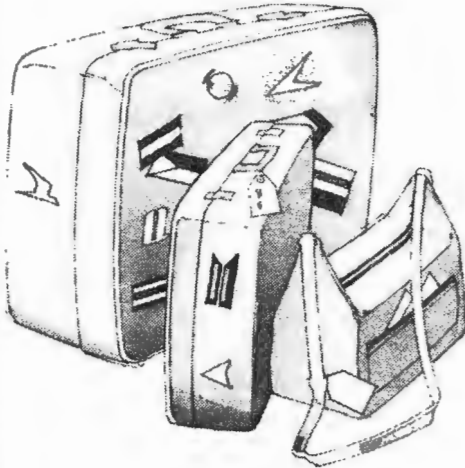
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**APPLICATION FORM TO JOIN THE
M A F I A**

- Whazza U Name
- U Hage
- Whaza U Housa Numero
- U Streeta
- Whaza U Job?
 - Hittaman?
 - Lona Ranger?
 - Whicha One?
- Putta Downa Wherr U Worka Now
- Whazza U Inna Da Bigger House?
- Whatza Wazza U Inna Da Bigger House 4?
 - Shoota One Guize?
 - Keednap Sumboddy?
 - Prostatooshin Raceets?
 - Other Things?
- U Wanna Be Da Bigga Shota Sunday?
 - Yaaze?
 - No?
 - Eh?
- U Lika Eeta Garlic?
- Pizza?
- Salami?
- U Know How 2 Maka De Cementa Shoes?
- U Driva Da Car?
- Cadillack?
- Linken?
- Buooick?
- U Lika Spaghetti?
- Porketta?
- Pika Justa One?
- No Foola Rounda
- U See Da Godfather?
- (Or Justa Da Movee?)
- U Sina Heer
- Widda Da Entry Fee U Gonna Ged
Sumthin U A Reely Gonna Lika!**
 - 1 Pair Darka Glasses
 - 1 Blacka Shirt Widd Wite Tie
 - 1 Pair Pintee Shooz
 - 1 Pair Cementa Shooz (Coma Latah Wen
U Foola Rounda)
 - 1 *in x 10in Pitcher of Frank Sinatra
pound Mezzarella Cheese
 - 1 Micraphona Hidden Inna U House
 - 1 Kiss (later) Onna U Cheek.

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BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WHEAT

Courtesy Ronald Frankau

You, who love Australia,
Hark to the rhyme,
And picture some hot summer's morn,
The time of my story is summertime,
The scene, a field of corn.

'Mid thousands of pieces of golden wheat,
Two only belong to my tale,
She was a female, tall and sweet,
And the other, of course, was a male.

The summer's breeze, sibilant and soft,
Wafted each to the other, to hear,

That the male piece of wheat,
On the fifty-third waft,
Murmured, "I love you, my dear."

The soft wind dropped and the summer's
heat,
Put an end to a romance begun,
And the beautiful female piece of wheat,
Fell asleep in the midday sun.

And when she awoke to raise her head,
'Twas pitch dark, wherever she peeped,
She found herself in a loaf of bread,
And she murmured, "My Gawd, I've been
reaped!"

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and

LADIES WEAR

also

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crossword puzzle 21

ACROSS

1. Egg-shaped
6. Move smoothly
11. Editors (abbr.)
14. Female fox
15. Mental disciples
16. Parasitic egg
17. Put in office
18. House units
19. Fish eggs
20. Color
21. Burst
23. Wear away
25. Break
26. Moose's horn
27. Whiff
30. Beats
32. Moon valley
33. Femur and ulna
34. Handle roughly
37. Wings
38. "The Merry —"
39. Contend
40. "— Little Indians"
41. Holy book
42. Silk
43. Stringed instruments
44. Flower
45. Attach
48. Bona —
49. List of candidates
50. Epic work
52. Western Indian

55. — Salvador
56. Small drum
58. Donizetti heroine
60. Finish
61. Style
62. Escape
63. Oolong
64. Assigns roles
65. Fortification
9. Unclear
10. Early Christians
11. Join up
12. Electronic device
13. Take the wheel
22. Stadium cry
24. Route (abbr.)
25. Store event
26. Once again
27. Misbehavior
28. Stir up
29. Ardor
30. Musical endings
31. Soon
33. Spin a log
34. Combine
35. Church part
36. Direction

38. Lumber
39. Feminine name
41. Resulting from motion
42. Violinist
43. Old-timer
44. By way of
45. Valuable item
46. Aircraft
47. Zoo attraction
48. Companies
50. Sacred bird
51. Rob
52. Wind-driven cloud
53. Rhadames' beloved
54. French city
57. Nabokov novel
59. Caucho tree

DOWN

1. Done
2. Despicable
3. Felled
4. Gumshoe
5. Agreement
6. Sweet liquid
7. Noose
8. "— Rhythm" (2 wds.)

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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63				64						65				

(Answer on Page 36)

THE MORALE BUILD-UP

Dear Tony,—

Very quiet here, I envy you over in Korea, in the thick of battle, I bet you never have a dull moment.

I visited your wife last night and read some of your last letters. They are a bit mushy but I can't blame you. Mary is such a swell kid, wonderful figure and loads of personality, and the guys all whistle at her when she goes out. Your brother-in-law Hiram just dropped in too. He is wearing that blue suit you bought just before you left. Mary gave it to him as she thought it would not fit you when you get back. Several couples came in while I was there and we knocked off a dozen bottles of beer. We all wanted to put in but Mary would not let us; she said you always send a few extra quid for her to spend. She also gave me one of those nifty ties of yours, and another chap bought your golf clubs for 25 bob.

Mary was the life of the party, I thought she would be a bit upset after the accident to your new Chev, but you would never know she had been in a collision and smashed it to bits. Too bad she forgot to pay the insurance, but the funny thing is she is not a bit concerned. The other driver is still in hospital and is threatening to sue. We all admire her courage and nonchalance. She said she will mortgage the house to pay costs. Good thing you signed over everything to her when you joined up.

To get back to the party, you should have seen Mary doing an imitation of Gypsy Rose Lee for the fellows. She's a card, full of pep and energy and still going strong when we said goodnight to her and Bob at 3am.

I guess you know Bob is living at your place now. It's nearer to work and he saves on petrol and lunches. he comes home for lunch every day and fills up on bacon and eggs and steak. Guess Mary must have forgotten to pay the gas bill last month, as she was in the kitchen with Bob making sandwiches when I went over for a beer. They didn't hear me coming and she said something about being 10 days overdue. Bob said not to worry. Of course Bob works for the gas company and can probably fix it up.

It's getting late so I had better finish. I can see across the garden to your home. Bob and Mary are having a night cap. He's wearing those new pyjamas you like so

much and she has one of those new-fangled nylon nighties. I'll bet you're happy knowing she has company.

Well Tony, old pal, I would like to be over there with you.

Give those Commo's hell.

Your pal,
George.



"Who? Me? I'm your new secretary — your wife hired me yesterday!"

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

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

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me liberty to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so. AMEN.

A young lady was showing off her new mink coat. "How do I look?"

Responded her friend: "Guilty!"

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