

NOVEMBER 1980

VOL. 2, NO. 12

CROSSFIRE



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EDITORIAL . . .

The matelots obviously like reading about themselves. The special Navy issue for October went in record time and some ex-Navalmen were seen taking as many as 10 copies to send to their admireres. Seriously though, that was the fastest an issue has disappeared since the first magazine was published in August, 1979.

This month we feature a number of articles from Chronicles of the N.Z.E.F. (1918), "Quick March," the forerunner of "Review," dating back to 1919, and an article from a 1936 copy of "Review." These magazines have been kindly loaned by Trevor Neal and we trust some of our really old digs will especially find them interesting and nostalgic.

The new curtains have been hung in the lounge and so far we haven't heard any adverse comments, which seems very strange — usually there are those for and against anything new.

Tenders close for the first stage of building alterations at the end of the month and quite a lot of interest has been shown by local builders. We are indebted to George Sewell who has donated a toilet pan, urinal and wash basin — quite a saving as anyone in the plumbing game will tell you.

Christmas is nearly on us with all the socials and wind-ups customary at this time of the year and our Pavilion Lounge will get no rest until New Year as every Saturday night and quite a few week nights have been booked.

Widows and veterans will be looked after again at Christmas and presents for them were purchased early in the year to beat inflation a little. We will also be visiting every Returned Serviceman and widow in hospital on Christmas Day and they also will receive a Christmas gift from the Association. This year too it has been decided that servicemen overseas will receive a small Christmas gift consisting of: 1 can Lion Brown, 1 can apple juice, 1 can lambs tongue, 1 can mushrooms, 1 can tua tua soup, 1 packet cheese segments, 1 jar Marmite. Each parcel is valued at \$5.31 and it is hoped the RNZAF will airlift them overseas. One thousand and thrity parcels are required and each RSA in New Zeland will contribute towards the overall cost.

WHAT'S ON IN THE CLUB DURING DECEMBER

- 3 Women's Section Christmas Party.
- 8 Veterns Christmas Party.
- 20 Bowling Club Turkey Stakes Social.
- 27 Bowling Club Christmas Fours Social.
- 31 New Year's Eve Social.

REUNIONS

26th Infantry Battalion National reunion, March 14-15, Christchurch.
Engineers National reunion, February 13, 14 15, Levin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been a hectic month around the Association as there has been a great deal of activity taking place.

The ladies enjoyed quite a good day as far as the weather was concerned with the opening of their outdoor bowling season on October 9. I had the pleasure of joining them for afternoon tea. I wish them a successful season.

All our thanks must go to the Ladies Section of the RSA for the splendid effort they put into looking after our Veterans. It is very pleasing to be able to sit down and talk to some of our "seniors" and share a cup of tea and a chat with them. If any member likes to put their nose into the room on one of these afternoons they would know exactly what I mean. They would be delighted to see you.

Sheila and I had a very pleasant evening at Renwick as guests of the Renwick Sub-branch and I had the pleasant duty to perform of presenting John Morgan with his Certificate of Life Membership of the Marlborough RSA. He has faithfully served them for a considerable number of years and the honour was deserved.

Another pleasurable evening for the pair of us was the presentation of trophies to the Men's Indoor Bowling Section. C. M. J. Watson (or "Reg" as we all know him) looked after us well during the course of the evening and everyone who attended must have enjoyed themselves. We certainly did.

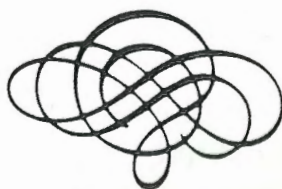
Owing to lack of numbers the Golf Section postponed the RSA golf tournament until next month. This was forced on them because of other conflicting sports fixtures around the district. This promises to be a good day.

The Ex-Navalmen certainly put on a good evening on November 13 when they ran a "Neptune's Cave" in the Pavilion Lounge. With their drapes painted in nautical scenes and also the rum that was being dispensed, it was a bit like the days of the press gang. However a press gang was not required to enable all present to have a thoroughly good evening's entertainment. This is just what we all need to keep the spirit of the club alive and well.

We are all eagerly awaiting for our building adviser, Mr Boddington, to push the permit through to enable us to get moving on our alterations. We have started to brighten up the main lounge with the addition of brighter drapes and they certainly make a difference. With a little imagination you can foresee the benefits we are all going to have the finished result.

The Executive have decided in the interest of economy to cancel this year's Executive dinner. Traditionally branch members and wives as well as our staff and spouses were invited along. However, as our building is obviously going to cost money it was felt that this was one direct saving which we could afford to cancel. I think it is a good move. Next year could be another story.

—RON HEMMING



THE TWO TYPES CONTINUED

The last issue of Crossfire featured an article on the "Two Types" (pp 25-26). We publish here a couple of samples of "Jon's" work which should bring back a few memories.



As if anyone really dresses like that!"

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE MEETING

Cards and badges for Service membership still not to hand — Borough Council reminder they had not replied to our complaint about taking a car parking space — Letter from president Omaka Marae requesting permission to sell raffles and asking for financial assistance received — Marae president to be invited to next Executive meeting — Ron Moseley retiring on 20th December (three senior barmen lost in the year!) — Peter McIntyre prints to be purchased, framed and hung in the clubhouse — Two new members joined in the month (we lost six) — Schoolboy gardening becoming big enterprise and much appreciated by recipients — Motor mower purchased to assist in this scheme — Tenders to be called for building extension — Net charter profit down to 12% in last quarter (gross was 86%) — No Executive dinner this year as an economy step — New Rules approved by L.C.C., NZRSA, Inland revenue and now registered — President Bowling Club invited to attend next Executive meeting to discuss articles being published in the bowling centre bulletin.

and 25 years ago

One new member elected — Mr G. Cole appointed RSA representative on Heritage — December "Loophole" ready for distribution — General Account had a credit balance of £127/6/10 and the Relief Account a credit of £245/1/3 — Christmas parcels at a cost of 15/- each to be distributed to residents at Amersfoote and hospital patients — Working-bee arranged to tidy up Omaka Cemetery.

and 30 years ago

R. A. Mears in the chair — No re-union this year (1950) as no suitable venue available — Letter from RSA requesting a meeting to discuss use of club facilities by Home Servicemen — A previous General Meeting approved their use of facilities on Friday nights — Mr Broadley appointed Heritage representative — Messrs Mears

and Breasley awarded Certificate of Merit — Housie to cease pending decision by authorities as to legality — Children's Christmas Party to be held at Waterlea Park — A control system to be installed to ensure some children did not get more than their share of sweets and ice creams.

To The Editor

I have been meaning to send in this poem for some time as I'd like to share it with the other fellows.

It was written around 1944 by a Canadian Sergeant Pilot instructing during the Empire Air Training Scheme — later killed in a training accident.

I have always remembered it from my A.T.C. days and you may know it yourself.

Oh, I have skipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter silvered
wings.

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the
tumbling mirth,

Of sun split clouds

And done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of—

Wheeled and soared and swung high in the
sunlit silence

Hovering there — I've chased the hovering
wind along

And tossed my eager craft through footless
hall of air.

Up-up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the sunlit clouds with easy grace
Where never earth nor even eagle flew,
And while with silent lifting wind I've trod,
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of
God.

CHRISTMAS DRAW PROGRESS

Up to the end of October, 2,555
tickets have been sold (\$2511 worth) and
\$2000 worth of prizes have been
purchased including 20 hams at \$30 each.

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Blenheim Women's Section

At the October social afternoon Mrs Kennington welcomed guests from Save the Children and Springlands-Farnham CWI.

Members enjoyed hearing from the Korean boy who we sponsor. He writes a delightful letter and always thanks us for the 13,380 Wan (Korean currency), our contribution to his education.

It sounds so much but it is only \$100, so this year, because of ever-increasing costs, we increased the donation to \$200. Hopefully, this will ease the family's financial burden.

Mrs Kennington also mentioned one of our members, Mrs Hutson, who was 90 years of age on October 11. A wonderful age for this lady who works in her garden and still plays bowls.

A sheaf of flowers and the section's best wishes were sent to Mrs Hutson.

Members from the Springlands-Farnham CWI came along to entertain — Mrs Stone and Mrs Osgood played piano duets, the jolly "Witches Flight" and "Shepherd Boy." Mrs Wallace and Mrs Humphries did a song-mime, "Daisy Bell."

Both these items were most enjoyable.

Mr Wye, the president of the Blenheim SCF, spoke of the foundation in England and of this organisation. This was at the end of WW1 and little did they realise that in 1980 the need for help would be so tremendous — 500,000 children are fed each day.

Mr Wye also mentioned the help given to Eskimo and Indian children in Canada, the money used being Canadian contributions.

Aid is also given in New Zealand to disturbed pre-school children who have speech problems.

Members of the SCF displayed for sale their cards and gifts.

Mrs Kennington thanked our guests for their help in making an enjoyable afternoon.

During October 19 members visited Kaikoura and had a very pleasant day.

Christmas time is just around the corner and our dates to hand:

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Renwick — Thursday, November 20.

Picton — Tuesday, November 25.

Section Christmas Dinner, Wednesday, December 3.

Veterans Christmas Afternoon, Monday, December 8.

VETERANS

A little devil guided my hand when I was writing up September Veterans' afternoon. In passing a vote of thanks, Mrs Powick's name emerged instead of Mrs Maidens, so my humble apologies to both ladies.

The October afternoon — the last for this year — except Christmas of course — went all too quickly.

The Blenheim CWI drama group gave some very hilarious items which made for a jolly afternoon which was a fitting end to the social afternoons.

We will see you all on Monday, December 8, at 2pm.

PICTON NEWS

October saw a steady number of visitors and entertainment from our bands and the clubhouse committee.

The usual visiting teams and games away competing at darts and pool have gained us many friends.

The new storeroom has now been completed and the entrance to the basement indoor bowling room has been concreted voluntarily, with a path and wall added.

Our visit to Westport was a great success for those members making the trip.

I've heard folk saying that if they had known it was going to be so good they would have gone too.

Other members have paid a visit to the Coast and had success with their whitebait catches.

Don't forget the social evening on December 6 for the presentation of Johnny Murrell's merit Badge and also Honorary Life Membership for Women's Section members.

Mike Everett of the clubhouse committee has told me it's going to be a cracker evening with a lot of thought going into it to make a memorable night.

NOTE NEW BAR HOURS

For the summer season the bar hours will be:

Monday to Thursday ... 11am to 10pm

Friday and Saturday ... 11am to 11pm

(Late permits will be obtained for special occasions, including December 6).

Anyone having items for possible inclusion in our Picton Bulletin may leave them with our Secretary. I have left a notebook with Gordon and he will pass on any items to me.

—CLIVE M. TAYLOR

THE HIGH COST OF LANGUAGE

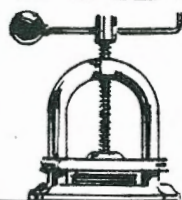
"Hey, Bill!"

"What is it?"

"Your doctor's out here with a flat tyre."

"Diagnose the case as flatulency of the perimeter and charge him accordingly," ordered the garage man. "That's the way he does his own business."

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Picton Women's Section

There was a good attendance at the October meeting of the Section to hear Jim and Pearl Badlands (member Pearl Myles) tell of their fabulous trip by coach from Canada in the north to Mexico in the south, throughout America.

Plenty of souvenirs brought the visit to life for us, even though it was hard to imagine the 13 million living in Mexico City alone. Picton was never like that!

The entertainment group have started their practices ready for our Christmas Party on November 25.

The afternoon indoor bowls sessions also concluded at the end of the month.

Flo Harvey was the lucky raffle winner for October.

We hope that our two members, Alva Smart and Norma York, who have been in hospital recently, are well on the way to good health.

—JOAN M. TAYLOR.



LAST POST



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.

WOMEN'S SECTION INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Closing day, September 24, was attended by 70 members. They were warmly welcomed by the president, Mrs U. Taylor, also Mrs P. Denton, vice-president of the women's section.

The short games of bowls were played until afternoon tea and trophies were presented by Mrs Denton.

Trophy winners were:

RINKS: R. Peterson (s), G. Haack (3), N. Long (2), V. Boyce (lead).

TRIPLES: R. Peterson (s), G. Harnett (3), N. Busch (lead).

PAIRS: M. Naysmith (s), M. Briden (lead).

First Aggregate: M. Briden; second aggregate, M. Bloxsome.

Catered afternoon tea was served by the committee and helpers.

The A.G.M. will be held in April, 1981, on a day yet to be decided.



Returned servicewomen are a small group within RSA who meet on the 5th Friday in those months which have these.

As October's fifth Friday fell on a holiday weekend, no gathering was held.

Our next get-together will be Friday, January 30, 1981, at the RSA—make a note of this.

We have arranged a hotel dinner during the last week in November.

Please contact president Connie (83-083) or secretary Rose (85-478) for details or to say you will be coming.



WINE ASSESSMENT!

We had one of Montana's wine-tasters try one of O. L. (Les) Watson's home-made wines and thought our readers (and Les) might get a laugh out of his assessment.

"This reddish wine is of exceptional turbid and dullness. It has a strong musty bouquet reminiscent of unwashed gym shoes or last year's forgotten rubbish. Its taste is full to the senses of the senseless fool brave enough to sample its robust nastiness. Allusions to gym shoes change rapidly to the rubbish, no longer forgotten, as the nausea reflex heightens the exquisite blend of the nugget and maggot flavour.

The finish is intolerably harsh and the tarry after-taste lingers long after the chunderous expulsion of this first (and normally only) foolhardy mouthful.

However, those with a palate and constitution cast of the right alloys of iron will eventually be rewarded for their perseverance by a mighty alcoholic clout that brings blessed oblivion (until next day, that is)."

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ENTER THE TRIDENT

As preparations for the mighty new Trident system got under way, entrustment of Britain's strategic nuclear deterrent to the Senior Service for the rest of this century and the first part of the next provides a confidence-boost for the Royal Navy in general and the Submarine Service in particular.

Four new nuclear boats (possibly five) will be operating in the 1990s, each armed with 16 tubes and each missile fitted with eight independently-targeted warheads — 128 warheads for each boat.

After years of controversial speculation on "what follows Polaris?" the Government announced in July in favour of Trident.

An agreement with the United States is similar to the 1962 arrangements under which Britain acquired Polaris.

The Trident boats are expected to be introduced progressively in the first half of the 90s as the Polaris force is phased out.

They are to be designed by naval teams with it is anticipated, Vickers playing a full part in the design.

Whether all will be built by Vickers remains to be seen.

FIVE BILLION

Total capital costs at today's prices is put at up to five billion pounds, spread over 15 years, for a four-boat force.

Costs of the missile system in the U.S. are estimated at a billion pounds, but at least 70% of the total cost of the force is to be spent in Britain, including submarine

building, work on the warheads and work at the Coulport armament depot and Faslane submarine base.

The new submarines are likely to be of similar size to Polaris boats — possibly larger at around 10,000 tons — and manpower requirements are also expected to be similar.

The Government plans to decide in two or three years time whether to build a fifth submarine at a likely additional cost of about £600 million.

The Trident missile is a three-stage, solid-propellant, inertially-guided ballistic missile and went to sea on operational service with the U.S. Navy last year. It weighs 65,000lb, compared to the 35,000lb of Polaris, and has a much greater range — some 4000 nautical miles (full payload).

This compares with the 2500 nautical miles of Polaris, providing the new submarines with the advantage of much greater "sea room" in which to operate.

THANKS

A thank you to Roy Wickett who donated a new body and catcher for our lawn-mowing service. Much appreciated, Roy!

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"QUICK MARCH" July 10, 1920

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE N.Z.R.S.A. — A
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT,
DR. E. BOXER

(The following message to all members of the NZRSA was delivered by Dr Boxer in thanking the delegates to the recent Dominion Conference for re-electing him to the Presidency of the Association)

At the commencement of another year may I send a personal message to all local associations and to every individual member of the association.

The association needs some shaking-up and I believe there should go forth a clarion call pointing to where our real duty lies in future national usefulness and reconstruction.

The RSA is today a power for good in the land. Our beginning was in small things, and was buried in small things, but there are wider spheres of usefulness ahead of us all.

It has been suggested that the association will die a natural death. I do not believe it; and on the contrary I believe it will rise, Phoenix-like, out of the ashes of internal dissension to a greater and higher level of national usefulness after the settlement of all the problems immediately before us is accomplished.

We have won the position we hold today by the strength of our minds and our purposes, and by the right of those who have borne arms. The future of the association lies in our hands, to make or to mar. I personally do not regard my responsibility lightly — rather do I hold it as a very sacred trust held for ex-soldiers as such, and also for the Dominion; a trust that should occupy one's very best endeavours and engage one's best hopes.

I would impress upon all members of the association that the future usefulness of the association is in the hand of each individual, and the purpose of my message is summed up in that ideal: "The greatest good for the greatest number."

Individual members may desire to take a strong and perhaps headstrong course in certain directions, but we must all realise that it is necessary to look upon our actions and desires in the light of how the Dominion as a whole would view our ideas and intentions.

THINK IMPERIALLY

learn to think imperially, study history with the map spread before you, and realise the greatness of the Empire of which we are a co-ordinated part. Above all, realise that we — you and I — are taking part in the world's progress.

In past eras of our history the cry was "For God and Merrie England," but now I would urge, rather, that our prayer should be, "For God and the World."

It is for the realisation of this ideal that we must all ultimately strive, else all would be but failure.

In the travail of the past years of war — the travail of the soul of the world — we all hoped that a child of the best intentions would have been born and known as Peace — a League of Nations that should insist on peace between the nations, and that there should no longer exist the right of man to slay his fellows.

But that stupendous birth was stillborn, and we can today sense the sorrow of the nations that the travail of the world should have been of no avail.

There is a nation that made all useless — a nation which will accept no mandate to govern and reconstruct after war's awful blight, which has retired within its own borders and forgets the cry of the stricken.

So it comes about that, for the future, whether we wish it or not, we shall have to see to it that we do not relax from the position of being able to defend both ourselves and the lesser and weaker nations.

On whom fall the mandates of the world, if not upon those who have already borne the stress and strain of five years of world war? Our Empire is the policeman of the World! There is no escape. Dare we refuse the trust which God has given?

As parents of the future we will have to be prepared to go through that which our parents went through when they yielded us into the King's keeping, and gave us to the Empire, and all which that Empire stands for. This will be our greatest personal sacrifice, but I take it that there will be no sacrifice that we shall refuse for the sake of the Empire.

Our parents did not falter, and we are we of lesser stuff than they? Seventeen thousand of our comrades are missing

today, and we, in the future, must be prepared, if need be, to yield our sons of today to the Destroyer, in defence of home and Empire and for the good of humanity.

War may not come — pray God it never will — but the only way to prevent it coming is for each member of the Empire to think imperially and so prepare that it will be impossible for another to attack us again.

Alone, on the very borders of the Empire, and comparatively defenceless, the military forces of the Dominion are known as "Defence."

Our object is defence, not offence, and for the defence we have striven, and for defence the Empire stands.

THINK NATIONALLY

Turning from the wider viewpoint to New Zealand itself, I would urge members to think nationally, and that it is "up to us" to do our best in construction on wider lines. just as it was "up to us" to go to all lengths when our nationhood was attacked.

Remember that, having yielded willing service with the forces of the Crown, we did not do one iota more than our obvious duty.

Remember, that if we served, others wept — that the duty required of us as men did but vary in detail and degree with the duty required of all.

Remember that we returned soldiers are but 10% of the population of this land and that the remaining 90% have to bear the burden of the repatriation of that 10%.

THINK ENTHUSIASTICALLY

Think enthusiastically of the work of our association in the past, the present and for the future. We have created something to be entirely proud of.

I believe that if there were more enthusiasm more would be done. The basic idea should be, not "how much good can I get out of the association and its activities?" but rather "how much good can I do for the incapacitated and stricken soldier and his dependents?"

There has been self-seeking amongst our members — let us see to it that we seek other's good and not our own.

The past has been more than justified and it is for us to justify the future.

Lift up your eyes to the ranges of future greatness, and see that from those high levels comes the salvation of the generations born and still unborn.

Make it your religion to live and strive for others, for the stricken and their dependents.

So will you find your own soul and learn the true joy of life.

All in the family

The young man started work as a stock-room boy. Within six months he was made a salesman. In another six months he was upped to sales manager, and shortly thereafter he was made general manager.

A few days later, he was called in by the president of the firm, who explained he would retire soon and would turn the presidency over to the newcomer.

"Thanks," said the young man.

"Thanks!" growled the president. "You've been with this firm only about a year. Is that all you can think of to say?"

"Well," said the young man, "thanks a lot, dad."

EDITORIAL

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

PRINTING

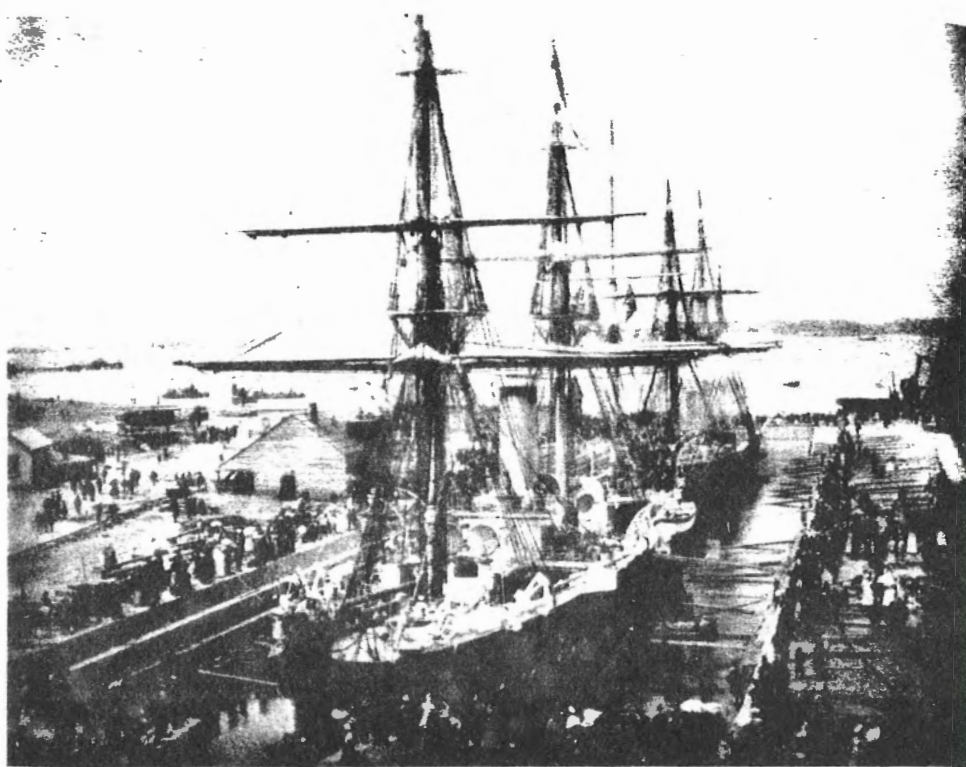
Crossfire is printed by Gards Print Ltd, 14 Bomford Street, Blenheim.

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.



The Calliope Dock at Devonport, Auckland, at its opening in February 1888. The warships are the corvettes *Calliope* and *Diamond*

GENESIS OF THE R.N.Z. NAVY

(Continued from October issue)

HMS *Philomel* was commissioned at Wellington on July 15, 1914, by Captain Hall-Thompson, R.N., who had been appointed Naval Adviser to the New Zealand Government. The old cruiser was manned for the most part by officers and ratings of the Royal Navy who had volunteered for service in New Zealand.

It was proposed to enter 60 or 70 New Zealand boys to complete her complement.

She sailed with her first entry of recruits at the end of July on a "shake-down" cruise but was recalled to Wellington on the eve of the outbreak of war on August 4, 1914.

A few days later the *Philomel*, in company with the *Psyche* and *Pyramus*, sailed from Auckland, escorting two transports carrying the troops who occupied German Samoa on August 30.

The three little cruisers left Wellington on October 16 as part of the escort for the convoy of 10 transports carrying the Main Body of the NZEF for Egypt.

From January 1915 the *Philomel* spent some months patrolling the Gulf of Alexandretta in the eastern Mediterranean. Several landings were made, and in one clash with the Turks the *Philomel*'s casualties were three killed and three wounded, one being the first New Zealander killed in the war.

The *Philomel* took part in the defence of the Suez Canal, in operations in the Gulf of Aden, and in patrols in the Persian Gulf. She returned to Wellington in April 1917 and was paid off.

In August 1919 Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe arrived in the Dominion in HMS *New Zealand* in the course of a world tour to investigate and report on the problems of the naval defence of the Empire. His report dealing with the defence of New Zealand was an exhaustive and remarkably prescient survey in three volumes.

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He pointed out that it was not possible to consider the naval requirements of the Pacific and Indian Oceans as a whole.

The total naval forces required for the Far East were on a considerable scale and no reasonable measure of defence could be given by a smaller force.

The Home and Far Eastern theatres were so far apart that correct strategy demanded adequate strength in both quarters.

There were elements of great friction between Japanese policy and the interests of the British Commonwealth, and it was almost inevitable that their interests would ultimately clash.

Nothing less than equality in modern capital ships could be relied upon to give security in the future against war with Japan, and those ships should be close at hand. The first objective of Japanese strategy undoubtedly would be an attack on British naval bases, and it was clear that such an operation could at the present time be carried out with comparative ease. The importance of safeguarding those vital strategic centres was obvious.

Advocating the establishment of an Eastern Fleet, Jellicoe emphasised that its strength in capital ships should not be less than, and as powerful individually as, the Japanese Fleet.

The report apportioned the cost of provision and maintenance of such an Eastern Fleet at Great Britain 75%, Australia 20%, New Zealand 5%.

It was suggested that New Zealand should maintain as her part of the Fleet three light cruisers, six submarines and a depot ship, and a naval air school — the ships to be provided initially by Great Britain but replaced when obsolete by New Zealand.

The regular naval forces were to be recruited for service in peace and war and naval reserve forces established to augment them in time of war.

The report stated that provision should also be made for fixed anti-submarine defences, boom defence vessels, and nets and controlled minefields for the principal harbours to be available in the event of war.

A reserve of minesweeping vessels should be built up by fostering the fishing industry. The protection of seaborne trade was dealt with in detail and proposals for escorting ships in convoy were set out. The report also stressed the importance of wireless communications, direction-finding stations and intelligence and coast-watching services.

The report was a fair warning of what was needed for the defence of New Zealand, but in 1939 many things were lacking and had to be improvised at great cost.

The Government decided to give effect to the Naval Defence Act 1913 and adopted the more immediate recommendations of Lord Jellicoe, namely, to acquire and maintain a modern light cruiser, commission HMS Philomel as a training ship and establish a Naval Board. It was provided by Order in Council dated June 20, 1921, that the force should be designated the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy.

HMS Chatham was commissioned for service on the New Zealand Station and arrived at Wellington in January 1921.

The first draft of recruits joined the Philomel in May 1921. Captain Hotham, CMG, R.N., combined the triple duties of commanding officer HMS Chatham, Commodore Commanding New Zealand Station and Naval Adviser to the Government.

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A.H. 83-887

84 Market St

Two escort vessels were also stationed in New Zealand, HMS Veronica arriving in 1920 and HMS Laburnum in 1922. They were maintained by the Admiralty but were under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Staff, New Zealand.

The Veronica and Laburnum were replaced in 1934 and 1935 respectively by the newly built sloops Leith and Wellington.

The New Zealand Naval Board was constituted by Order in Council of March 14, 1921, with the minister of Defence as chairman, the Commodore as First naval Member and the Chief Staff Officer as Second Naval Member. The secretary to the

Commodore acted as Naval Secretary to the Board.

In 1926 he was appointed permanent head of Navy Office, but was not then a member of the Board.

The secretariat at first was not organised on departmental lines but was drawn from the staff of the Department of Internal Affairs. Control of expenditure was exercised by the appointment to Navy Office of an officer directly responsible to the Treasury.

It was found difficult to administer the naval forces effectively while the first naval member of the board had also to carry out

FOR MEN'S SHOES

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You can count on . . .*



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his duties as commanding officer of a cruiser. An effort to remedy this was made in 1936 by the appointment of a flag captain to the commodore in order to free the latter to attend meetings of the Naval Board.

In 1938 the administration was reorganised and Navy Office was constituted a Department of State.

The Naval Board now consisted of the Minister of Defence as chairman, a Commodore, Second Class, as First Naval member and Chief of Naval Staff, a Captain R.N. as Second naval Member, and a Paymaster Commander R.N. as member and Naval Secretary.

HMS Chatham was replaced in May, 1924, by HMS Dunedin, an oil-burning cruiser. Included in her complement was a detachment of Royal Marines whose arrival marked the beginning of a long association of that famous corps with the New Zealand Naval Forces.

The Admiralty tanker *Nucula*, of 6500 tons capacity, was hired to the Government to maintain a regular supply of fuel-oil. Two storage tanks with a capacity of 9280 tons were under construction at Devonport but were not completed until 1927.

HMS *Diomedé* was commissioned at Portsmouth on October 21, 1925, for service with the New Zealand Division and arrived at Auckland in January, 1926.

The cruisers were manned for the greater part by officers and ratings on loan from the Royal Navy. The recruiting of New Zealand boys for continuous service proceeded steadily over the years, but their number increased slowly since for various reasons there was a continuous wastage.

With two cruisers in commission it was possible to carry out tactical exercises and competitive training.

Periodically, drafts of selected New Zealand ratings were sent to England for more advanced training and wider experience in ships and establishments of the Royal Navy.

From time to time the New Zealand cruisers took part in sea-going exercises with ships of the Royal Australian Navy, to the great benefit of fighting efficiency.

Enrolments of officers and men of the Merchant Marine in the New Zealand branch of the Royal Naval reserve had started in 1922, but the total number was small.



Devonport in 1929. The New Zealand Squadron, as shown, was HMS *Dunedin* and HMS *Diomedé*, with the two Imperial sloops *Veronica* and *Laburnum* astern. *Philomel* and *Wakakura* are at the training jetty, with the battle-practice target and the cable ship *Recorder* in the background

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PHONE 125

FREE DELIVERY

The Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (N.Z.) was inaugurated at Auckland in 1925. This service had a strong appeal to sea-minded lads, especially those with experience in yachts and small boats.

The Auckland Division of the RNVR expanded quickly, and in 1928 the Wellington, Canterbury and Otago Divisions were started.

At the end of that year there were 405 continuous service ratings in the New Zealand Division and New Zealand reservists numbered 63 officers and 420 ratings.

In January 1925 the chief staff officer recommended to the Naval Board that a trawler fitted with suitable gear and a 4-inch gun be obtained for the purpose of training naval reservists in seamanship, minesweeping and gunnery.

He pointed out that minelaying by enemy raiders would be the greatest threat to shipping in New Zealand waters in war and that the nucleus of a minesweeping organisation, capable of expansion in an emergency, should be formed.

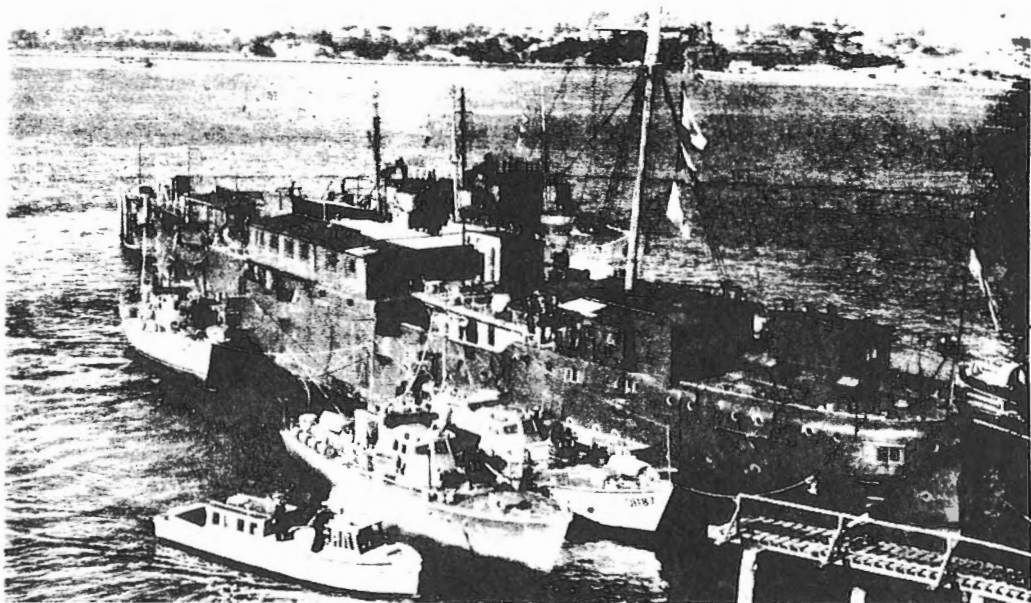
The Naval Board accepted this proposal, which was approved by Cabinet in September 1925.

A "Castle-type" trawler of 429 tons was purchased from the Admiralty for £5000 and commissioned as HMS Wakakura.

By the time she arrived at Auckland in January 1927 the costs of purchase, repairs, alterations and additions and delivery amounted to £24,832.

From that time onwards, hundreds of New Zealand lads of the RNVR were trained in the Wakakura. Many of them, as commissioned officers and ratings, had notable records of active service during the Second World War.





Harbour Defence Motor Launches moored alongside HMNZS *Philomel*, with HMNZS *Inchkeith* moored on the opposite side of the training jetty

DEMOLITION OF THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER PO

ABOUT APRIL 25, 1945

The pontoon bridge across the Po River had been operating only a short while when we, No. 1 Platoon of 1st Div. Ammunition Coy, took a load of ammunition across (30 trucks with 3½ tons each).

I couldn't help worrying whether the pontoons would carry us as they appeared to have no more than two inches of freeboard when we were directly above them.

It was essential to watch the spacing between vehicles. Each vehicle was in its lowest gear and flat out because it was like climbing a 1:5 grade hill.

We delivered our loads a few miles north and returned to the river where we had to stop on the side of the road to await the change of direction of the traffic across the bridge.

I got out my vintage camera (a little VPK127) and was wondering whether there was enough light to take a photo, when the ground shook like an earthquake and my first thought was there is a German aeroplane about.

Then I saw spray shoot up from near the centre of the bridge and I hurriedly opened my camera and took a snap. Unfortunately most of the spray had settled by this time, but some can still be seen in the snap.

It was great to see the engineers go into action.

The spray had hardly settled when they had new sections of bridge floating out from the side of the river.

After replacing either one or two sections, it was only 20 minutes or so and traffic was flowing again.

One truck got jammed in the excitement, and a motorcyclist who would have been closest to the explosion, crashed his machine and to us on the grandstand gave a splendid example of what an Olympic champion can do.

Apparently the Germans had floated a mine down the river, which had eluded a Bofors gun on each side of the river and several machine guns which shot at every shadow they saw coming down.

One happy interlude of the event was that several of us found time to strip off and have a swim in the Po.

—71361 ANDY CRAW

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AL PACINO is one showing a lot of potential in the north and is one worth watching closely.

Promising three-year-old DEL TIME could well win them in a row over the next few weeks.

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The connections of EXECUTIVE are confident that their promising youngster will pick up a win or two in the near future.

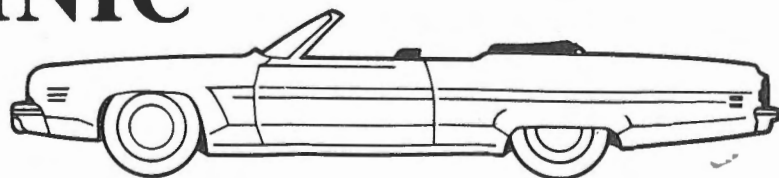
You can't afford not to follow ABBE DIRECT over the holidays. This one could be good!

Pleasing to see the local horses performing well recently. They should be well to the fore on the Coast circuit.



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CAR REPAIRS



MAINTENANCE

CHRONICLES OF THE N.Z.E.F.

THE DOINGS OF DIGGERS AND THE WAY OF THE WAAC'S

At Brockton, when the sun sinks low,
And the hills are bathed in the twilight glow,
The "Diggers" put on their belts and go
To stroll on the moors, or to drown their woe
In the Government Beer at the Barley MOW.

Round Brockton way it's pretty well known
That the "Diggers" don't stroll on the Moors
alone;

So tired of themselves have the boys all
grown

That they seek other company besides their
own.

And ere I have finished, I think I'll have
shown

Why the "Diggers" don't stroll on the moors
alone.

For away to the moors there go each night
Little brown ladies so merry and bright;
And the "Diggers" fall victims — and well
they might,

For who could resist such a lovely sight
As the "Waacs" on the moors in the evening
light.

So each "Digger" takes his lady fair,
And they all stroll off; for they know just
where

There's a nice little possie that two can share
And there's no one to worry and no one to
care,

What they say or do on the moors out there.

The "Digger" he tells of a lovely home
That he has in New Zealand across the
foam;

Of his motor car and his horses fine,
Of his blackberry farm and his treacle mine,
Of the fabulous wealth that his father's got;
And poor little "Waacie" believes the lot.

But little Miss "Waac" has a story too,
To tell to her "Digger" as kind and true,
Of how, ere she joined this army corps,
She has never done work at all before—
Except to paint, or sing and play
On her grand piano all the day.

So the "Waacs" and "Diggers" up Brockton
way,
Though they can't do much on their Army
pay,

Have a jolly good time in their own little way;
And don't care a jot what other folds say.
In love, in war, at work or play
The "Waacs" and "Diggers" win the day.

—A24/DINK

ALCOHOLIC AERONAUTICS

Did you see that recent cable item from
Sydney (asks Alec) about a satisfactory
experimental flight having been made by
aeroplane using alcohol as a fuel?

That's nothing new. Why a friend of
mine whose uncle used to work for a man
whose brother's wife's nephew was a
Scottish mechanic, told me that this canny
Celt had been experimenting with no other
fuel than good old "scotch" for many years
with the most remarkable and sensational
results.

Although his life work was well known
to the local police, he had, owing to his
native modesty, never made his researches
known to the masses. His method was to fill
his tank with alcohol until his indicator
warned him that it would hold no more.

Then, loaded with two or three bottles
of emergency fuel, he would tumble into his
four-poster, double wire-woven Doze
machine and, would immediately leave the
earth at a terrific rate, and tear dizzily
through the night.

When once his machine was in motion it
required no controlling hand. This
nocturnal aeronaut told my friend's uncle's
wife that he judged he had reached easily
two hundred and fifty miles an hour, only it
seemed much faster, even, than that.

In fact, the enormous speed seemed to
take his breath away and sometimes made
him very ill.

And now after all these years of
research, with success almost in his grasp,
he has been beaten on the post, for
unfortunately he could never remember
having successfully completed a flight.

He always found himself lying on the
bedroom floor — I mean just lying — with his
machine a tumbled wreck, at his side.

It appears that at the critical moment,
just when his machine seemed to be at its
best, he would suddenly drop dizzily into
space and unconsciousness.

My friend's uncle, who is a bit of a flyer
himself, is of the opinion that these disasters
were due to over-filling of the tank.



"Will the secretary please read the minutes of the last neighbourhood cocktail party?"

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Deep thirst

Upon leaving a hotel bar one evening, an executive noticed a drunk sitting on the edge of a potted palm in the lobby crying like a baby. Because the executive had had a couple himself that night and was feeling rather sorry for his fellow man, he asked the inebriated one what the trouble was.

"I did a terrible thing tonight," sniffled the drunk. "I sold my wife to a man for a bottle of Scotch."

"That is terrible," said the executive, too much under the weather to muster any real indignation. "And now that she's gone, you wish you had her back."

"Tha's right," said the drunk, still sniffing.

"You're sorry you sold her because you realise too late that you love her," he sympathised.

"No, no," said the drunk. "I wish I had her back because I'm thirsty again."

When it's double or nothing

LION BEER



It's time for a Lion

Relax with the true satisfying flavour.
You're onto a winner.



WAY FOR THE WHEAT

("QUICK MARCH" 1920)

"Try Fluke" writes of a long-ago canal-cutting project.

When the Waikato is in high flood, as it was the other day, and the whole country in the lower basin is a series of shallow lakes and lagoons, it is easy to imagine that, with little trouble, navigation could be continued from the Waikato right across to the Piako flats and the Hauraki Gulf.

That was really what struck the active mind of the Maori in the late 50s of the last century.

Wheat growing was then the great industry of the native country. Tracts of land now under fern and scrub were covered with grain crops; water mills in dozens of places ground the wheat into flour and flotillas of canoes carrying both corn and flour to the Auckland market made lively the broad current of the Waikato.

It was a long and difficult journey to market, however, for the cargoes had to be portaged in small canoes along the Awaroa creek from the Waikato into the Manukau, thence by cutter to Onehunga and thence by cart to Auckland town.

So, to avoid all this trans-shipping, the Waikato people conceived the idea of cutting a canal across the low neck of land which separates the head of the Maramarua creek (which joins the Waikato river near Mercer) to the Piako River, a waterway just wide enough for the big canoes, which thus could be paddled into the Thames Gulf and thence to Auckland town direct.

The tribes all took up the scheme as a brilliant business idea, and potatoes were planted in large quantities near the scene, so that in the following season, the brown navvies would have an ample food supply close to their work.

But the scheme fell through, from causes remote from the Waikato fields. Wheat suddenly dropped from twelve shillings a bushel to four shillings, and bumped the bottom out of that industry.

The Maori, in disgust, abandoned wheat-growing and never a spade was set to that grand canal.

In these latter years white engineers have more than once suggested cutting a channel for steamboat and launch traffic from the lower Waikato to the Piako, but I don't think many people know that the same notion occurred to the Maori more than 120 years ago.



I'm afraid I can't leave and go with you to a better party — I'm the hostess.

THE "NOSTALGIA ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE DEPARTMENT" — 60 YEARS AGO



THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS PART OF THE CROWD AT A FUNCTION. IT COULD BE THE SAME EVENT AS SHOWN OPPOSITE AND POSSIBLY SHOWS SOME OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY. THE PHOTO SHOWS TWO GENERATIONS — SOME OF THE LADS ON THE BANK WERE DESTINED TO TAKE PART IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. CAN MEMBERS RECOGNISE ANY OF THE PEOPLE SHOWN HERE?



THIS PHOTO DATED APRIL 25, 1919, SHOWS A CROWD IN FRONT OF THE CLUBROOMS. CAN ANY MEMBERS RECALL THIS FUNCTION? IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST ANZAC DAY AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR.



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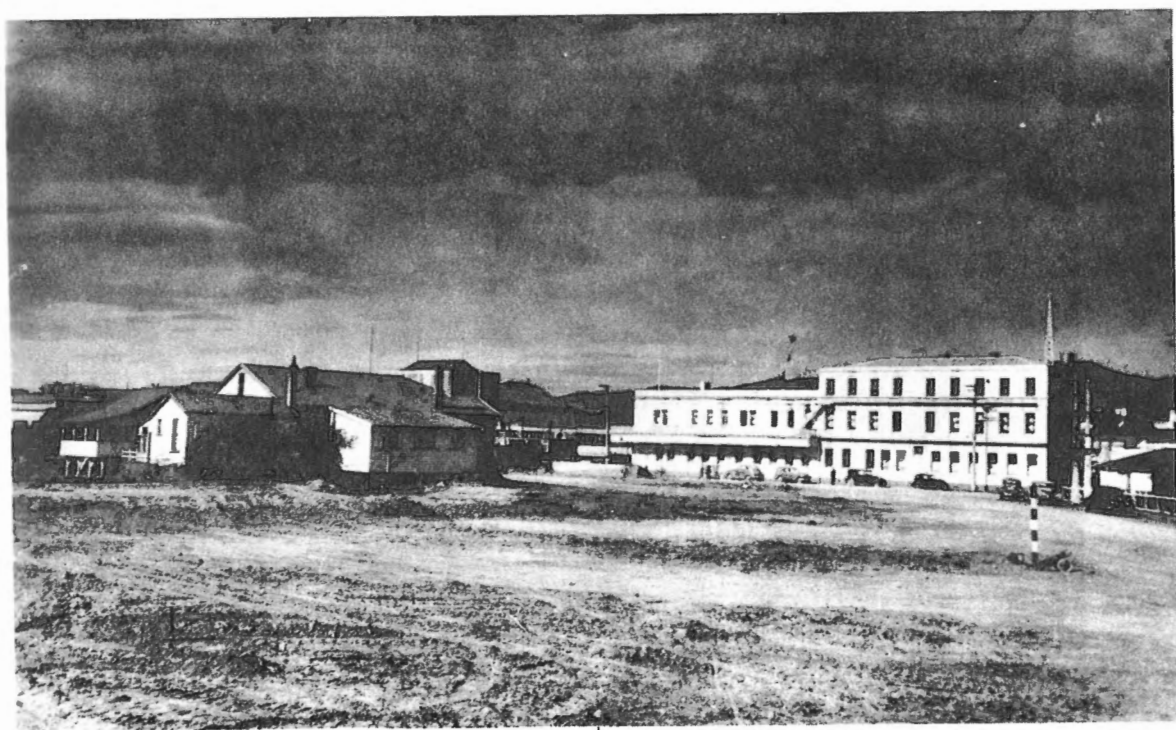
AN AERIAL VIEW SHOWING THE CLUBROOMS. CAN YOU DATE THIS PHOTO?



A BULLDOZER FILLING THE LOOP. THE CRITERION HOTEL IS SHOWING SIGNS OF FIRE DAMAGE. WHEN WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?



THE OLD ALFRED STREET BRIDGE AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURING FILLING OPERATIONS.



THE OLD CLUBROOMS AND THE CRITERION HOTEL WITH THE LEVELLING OF THE CARPARK IN PROGRESS.

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SYMBOL OF SERVICE

THE OLD 'OLD' R.S.A.

The "old RSA" was originally Panama House and the following description comes from a brochure advertising a fund-raising Queen Carnival. The brochure was dated August-September 1918.

PANAMA HOUSE, the property which has been presented to the Returned Soldiers' Association; and which is to be converted into a home for returned fighting men, is centrally situated in Alfred Street, on the banks of the Omaka River—within a stone's throw of the Railway Station and Market Square.

The building comprises 16 rooms, and stands in extensive grounds. Very little alteration will be required to convert the present building into comfortable quarters and club rooms, and when completed the Hostel will provide members of the Association with a long-felt want.

In addition to residential quarters it is proposed to arrange for club rooms, including recreation, reading and billiard rooms, and arrangements will be made to place at the disposal of members light refreshments and other comforts. A feature of the institution will be a concert hall, and this will be used for the various social gatherings and meetings of the Association.

A primary function of the Hostel will be to provide accommodation for undischarged men whose homes are situated in outlying parts of the district, and who have to remain in town for an indefinite period whilst undergoing hospital treatment, and for members whilst visiting Blenheim.

The present membership of the Marlborough Returned Soldiers' Association is 120; but with the addition of the Hostel to the many other advantages of membership, the Executive hope to double the present figures in a very short time.

PHONE 89-474

David Nott

PHONE 89-119

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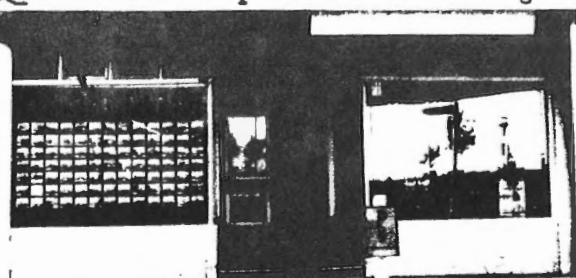
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"PANAMA HOUSE"

A photograph from the same brochure. Although the photograph is in poor condition, readers will note the similarity of

the scene with that on page 25. However, the sign shown here reads: "Panama House, Mrs Terrill, Proprietress."

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ANOTHER EEL STORY

"I.A.M." writes: About that eel about which "Taipo" lied in the March issue. He must be the monster tuna of Piriaka, on temporary transfer from his ancestral home.

I tell the tale as 'twas told to me by a Maori veteran, a namesake of the chap who bit the fruit and laid up for us all an imperishable monument of woe.

Up in the King Country, in days gone by, eels were mighty scarce and the old chief's molars, nurtured on a purely fish diet, worked overtime on the wild and leathery poaka (pig) which was all the hunters could round up.

Then came a young man to the chief, who offered to find eels in plenty.

Doubting him, yet keen on the prospect of even a fleeting glimpse of the slippery one, the whole Pa followed him to the nearest stream.

He pointed to a pool. "Go in there," he said. "Two tuna there."

They obeyed, and two writhing victims were duly flung up on the bank.

A few pools further on, he again halted. "Get four in there," he declared. Again he was successful.

The performance was repeated a dozen times, and the whole hapu had enough kai to last for months. They did not practice economy because they knew the "eel-diviner" would help them out when bad times came again.

One day the "diviner" took them to a mud flat near the river. He pointed to the ground.

"Big tuna asleep down there," he said, and managed to convince them that this was so.

They dug until the old chief reckoned he could smell brimstone or some such thing, and wasn't taking any more risks.

But they still believed in the big tuna's existence — the "diviner" reckoned him as 50ft long at the least.

So, ere giving up, they planted deep a circular row of stakes completely around the spot where the big chap was supposed to be — just to keep him a prisoner for the remainder of his days.

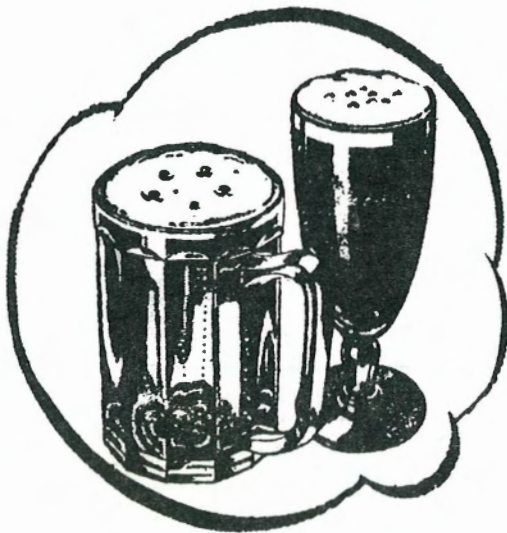
The stumps of those stakes can still be seen. I stubbed a toe badly on one of them on a certain dark night. (I joined in an unsuccessful midnight search for a bottle of "frisk" aold Adam swore had been "planted" in the vicinity 10 years before).



DRINK AND ENJOY 

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

G. K. Chesterton.



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WEST COAST BRANCH**

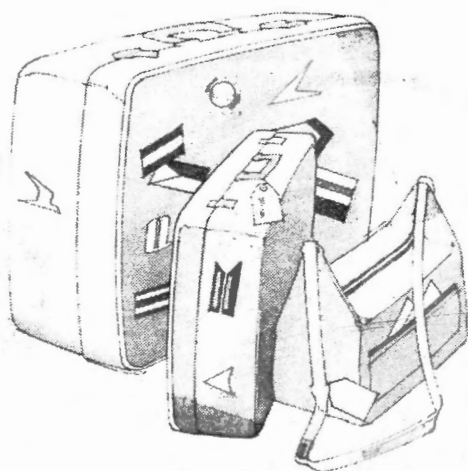
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Christchurch: 85 Hereford Street. Phone 797 505

ANZ BANK
Ready to listen—Ready to help.

The American Field Service

The American Field Service started as a private volunteer ambulance corps in WW1. It also served in WW2, and in both wars carried many thousands of wounded soldiers.

It has no religious or political affiliations.

In 1946, its members wanted to continue its traditions, working for international understanding among peoples of the world and so the AFS International Scholarship programme was established.

To date, over 100,000 young people from more than 60 countries have gone to the U.S. on this programme.

Each student goes to a U.S. community where the people have organised AFS Chapters to make the arrangements for entering the student into a U.S. school, finding a host family and raising \$US850 for the AFS programme.

The AFS student lives with a family, sharing the responsibilities of normal family life. The family receives no payment for having the student. Each year a few students go to boarding school.

Whilst in the U.S. the student lives with Americans, learning about them and teaching them about his own country. He meets AFS students from many parts of the world as well.

The AFS student participates actively as a member of the senior class, or 12th grade, in a U.S. senior high school, and he usually follows the college preparatory course therein. He is expected to be able to take the initiative in seeking out friend and in finding activities at school and in the community to which he can contribute, as well as maintaining a satisfactory academic record and contributing to the intellectual life of the school.

Up until three years ago, Marlborough students had to apply for AFS Studentship through Wellington Chapter. In 1977 a hard-working group of interested parents, friends and a few returnees got together and formed the Marlborough branch.

This chapter has worked to maintain an interest in colleges from Kaikoura to Picton.

American Field Service has two programmes to offer — winter and multi-

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national, which is a 12 month studentship in the United States or a number of other multi-cultural countries prepared to host our students.

This is one-year living with an American family and attending high school. The second is a trans-Tasman programme, duration three months from December 4 till the the end of February — this is over a holiday period so no schooling is involved but students are expected to get out into the community with social work, sport, or assisting their host family.

Marlborough has hosted a number of students both from the States and Australia, at different times.

This is a most rewarding experience for student, college and host family and indeed the community in general.

May we put in a plug here for more families to host students. Homes are needed, colleges are prepared to take these people, but they must have a New Zealand mum and dad.

If interested, please contact AFS Secretary, Mrs Barbara Murray. "Murray Downs," Omaka Valley.

This year Marlborough Chapter has two students away in the States.

Paul Johnston, from Clarence Bridge, is making a name for himself playing football for his college at Edgerton, Wisconsin, and

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MERCERS

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crossword puzzle 23

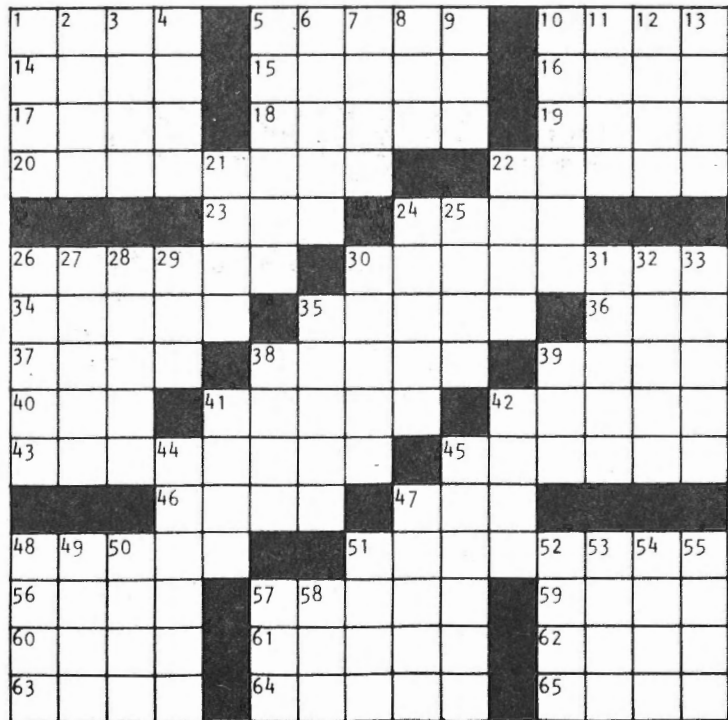
ACROSS

1. Small amounts
5. Peeled
10. Mouth parts
14. City in Russia
15. Ascend
16. Notion
17. City in Nevada
18. Wash lightly
19. Lath
20. Was important
22. Cubic meter
23. John ———
Passos
24. Story
26. Ghost
30. List of days
34. Rich cake
35. Was concerned
36. "Cakes and ———"
37. Wings
38. Emit light
39. Poke
40. Rodent
41. Unlatches
42. Amphitheater
43. Written exposition
45. Elected
46. Metal fasteners
47. ———
constrictor
48. Strides
51. Less firm
56. Healthy
57. Not as wet
59. ——— Stanley Gardner
60. Operatic solo

61. Merits
62. Festive
63. Toothed wheel
64. Native of Stockholm
65. Break suddenly

DOWN

1. Residence hall
2. Region
3. Curbed
4. Coin opening
5. Talking bird
6. Ram constellation
7. Fruit skin
8. Curved letter
9. Actress Sandra ———
10. Hear
11. Unemployed
12. Juicy fruit
13. Glut
21. Songstress Adams
22. Winter vehicle
24. Mountain lakes
25. Toward shelter
26. Begin
27. ——— bear
28. Angry
29. Route (abbr.)
30. "The ——— Mutiny"
31. Challenges
32. Solitary
33. Fortification
35. Pawn game
38. Twirl
39. Paid athlete
41. Cornelia ———
Skinner
42. Judean King
44. Seem
45. Not refined
47. Mix
48. Chase after
49. Weight allowance
50. Charles Lamb's pen name
51. Discharge
52. Implores
53. Persia
54. Songstress Fitzgerald
55. Harvest
57. ——— Moines
58. Uncooked



(Answer on Page 36)

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also helping with the tobacco harvest. Edgerton is one of the largest tobacco growing areas in the U.S.A.

Beth Parkes comes from Ward and has spent all her 17 years on a farm.

She is now living in the State of Iowa and attending Gladbrook College, having a wonderful experience.

Marlborough AFS is at present hosting Tom Muraves, who is attending Marlborough Boys College, and his N.Z. family are Mr and Mrs John Dodson, of Grovetown.

Tom comes from Glendale, Los Angeles, a population of 132,000. His father runs boarding stables and owns 50 horses.

Tom enjoys camping and, naturally, horse-riding.

He has made a name for himself here in Blenheim with rugby, opera and college drama.

This year we have two Marlborough College girls going to Australia — Claire Maxted from Lower Wairau and Denys Powell from Blenheim.

We know these students will have a marvellous experience and we wish them well.

If anyone is interested in seeking more information, or wishing to join our chapter, just inquire at Marlborough RSA office and you will be given names and phone numbers of AFS members.



Man's best friend

Having wandered helplessly into a blinding snowstorm, Sam, a notorious drinker, was greatly relieved to see a sturdy St Bernard dog bounding toward him with a keg of brandy strapped to his collar.

"At-last," cried Sam, "man's best friend — and a great big dog, too!"

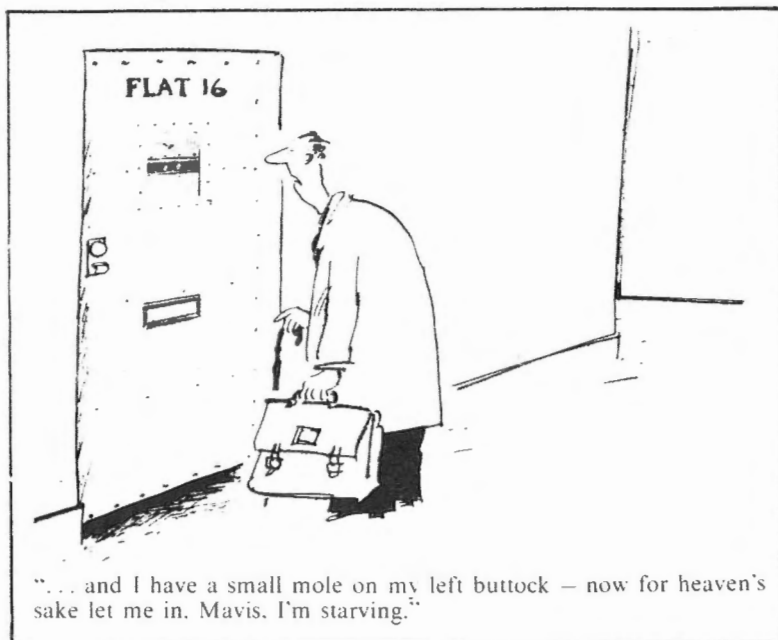
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Saying when

"Say when," he said as he poured the drink and snuggled a little bit closer.

"Right after this drink," came the breathless reply.

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