

FEBRUARY 1981

VOL. 3, NO. 2

# CROSSFIRE



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE  
MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES  
ASSOCIATION



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# EDITORIAL . . .

The end of the financial year has come and gone and our books are presently being audited and the Annual Report and Balance Sheet readied for printing. This report will be available for collection by members from the RSA and unclaimed reports will be delivered to local members again this year by members of the Ex-Malayan Association. As you will see elsewhere in Crossfire we now have 1502 members and if we posted the report and balance sheet out it would cost 20c a time — over \$300. Various extracts from the accounts are published in this issue as it is difficult to show all detail of interest to members in a balance sheet.

Nominations for officers and members of the committee for the coming year closed on February 21 and in our next issue we will give a pen-picture of each of the candidates. The A.G.M. is set down for Sunday, March 29, and we hope for a record attendance.

It's nice to see some new faces around the club and we welcome the 90 Service Members who have joined us. These 90 don't replace the members we lose in a two-year period but will help us in our struggle to meet rising costs without having to hit members too hard by way of subscriptions and bar prices.

Finally, editing Crossfire is becoming more difficult and time-consuming each month with little support from anyone else, so I have reluctantly advised the Executive that I will retire as Editor following publication of the March issue. So we're looking for volunteers from among our members.



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## TYPICAL THANK-YOU LETTER

"Please accept my sincere thanks for the handsome gift received just prior to Christmas. I feel that I have been very well treated health-wise — 31 from Grovetown went off to the First World War and I am the last left alive. Eight of the 31 lost their lives.

I will be 85 at the beginning of April.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Don March."

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## NEW MEMBERS

2009170 Philippa Irene SMYTHE  
18095 Walter David COUNIHAN

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LUNCH AT THE RSA — 12 to 1.30

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

This is the first issue for 1981 of the Crossfire magazine and the interest shown in the book is quite amazing. Quite a few of our veterans that my wife and I visited over the holidays told me that they look forward to getting a copy each month. That way they get some idea of the happenings around the club. Let us hope that the magazine goes from strength to strength.

Once again it was a highly successful Christmas Draw we had in December and my thanks go to all those who helped in any way to make it the success it was. It is no easy task having to organise, collect, spend on prizes, and all the other jobs allied to the draw. I am sure that a few more volunteers won't come amiss nearer the next Christmas Draw.

On the same evening I had the pleasure to farewell Ron Moseley, our genial steward, who decided to call it a day. All in all, we had quite a number of retirements from our staff in 1980.

Another evening in December saw the presentation to the club of a plaque from the Dunkirk Veterans. This has been added to the plaques in the bar and will be well received by all members I am sure.

On your behalf I attended the RSA golf tournament which this year was held at Fairhall. I do congratulate Duncan Robertson and his committee for the excellent arrangements that were made. Of course, congratulations go to those who were fortunate enough to win the prizes also.

At long last we have got the building alterations underway. The storeroom from the Pavilion Lounge has been erected and the toilets beneath are being finished as we go to press. It has taken us a long time to get underway and I only hope that we don't get any more delays. The sooner we can get the project finished the better it will be for all concerned.

This year's Outdoor Bowls Diggers tournament was a success once again and I do thank their committee for making all the arrangements on behalf of the executive. It was good to see a local team take the top prize of the trip to Auckland. The "locals" have been in the wilderness for the last couple of years but came back into the limelight with a bang.

For those of you who are unaware of the fact, lunches are being put on in the club once again. If you are in town at all, why not drop into the club for that midday meal? Gerry Hay is doing a good job with the catering and I am told that the menus are varied and plentiful.

Leaving the best to last, I must thank all those executive members who made themselves available to distribute the Christmas cheer to our elderly folk and widows. To watch the faces of these people when you give them a little something is very gratifying and rewarding. I am sure that I got more out of it than any of the recipients.

Likewise, Christmas Day at the hospital and Amersfoote Home, etc. A party of us met in the morning and Bert Thurlow showed us around to our members who were installed in the hospital and Home. I am sure that we did cheer them up — if only for a while. To those who managed to accompany us around — many thanks.

---

RON HEMMING



# FLORIST — MAYFLOWER STUDIO



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HOSPITALS HOMES  
AND ALL OCCASIONS  
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## SERVICE MEMBERS

ADAMS, David D.  
ANDERSON, Ashley C.  
BADLAND, James G.  
BISHOP, David C.  
BRUNING, Charles L.  
BUDGEON, Vincent F.  
CAIRNS, George E.  
CLUNIES-ROSS, Dymoke G.  
CRAWFORD, Philip B.  
CURRY, Charles M.  
DENT, Paul L.  
DODSON, Rex C.  
EARNSHAW, Noel.  
EWART, Edward J.  
FREEMAN, Sydney C.  
GAPPER, John F. H.  
GIBSON, Malcolm D.  
GILES, Alistair E. H.  
GLEESON, Robert V.  
GRIDLEY, John G.  
HALL, Robert B.  
HART, Russell J.  
HUNT, James.  
JONES, Maurice A.  
JONES, Paul D.  
KELLY, Christopher M. E.  
KING, David C.  
LILLICRAPP, William G.  
MANDERSON, Stanley F.  
MARKER, Leicester L.  
MARSHALL, Barry H.  
McKIMMIE, Murray D.

NEAME, MacDonald.  
NICHOLAS, James W.  
OWENS, James F.  
PATERSON, rex A.  
PEAT, Sidney R.  
ROBINSON, Bruce M.  
RODGER, May.  
ROSS, Garry D.  
ROSS, Mark D.  
SILCOCK, Keith M.  
SIMMONDS, Noel T.  
SLADE, Gordon.  
SLOANE, Brendon J.  
SMALE, Athol E.  
STEWART, Harold O.  
STOVE, Mark A.  
SUTHERLAND, Helen E.  
THOMPSON, Paul.  
THOMPSON, Bruce A.  
THURLOW, James A.  
VERCOE, Royal H.  
WALLACE, David N.  
WALLACE, James C.  
WEBSTER, Phillip C. H.  
WHITISKIE, William L.  
WILSON, Roy J.

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LUNCH AT THE RSA — 12 to 1.30

## BUY LOCALLY AND YOUR MONEY WILL COME BACK TO YOU

This Month's Special  
Inspect our WALTHER TARGET RIFLE NOW.

### *Marlborough Sports Depot*

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*"The Good Shots Next To The Cri"*



# PICTON R.S.A. NEWS

For a start may I extend the season's greetings and a healthy, happy New year to all fellow RSA and club members throughout the Marlborough district on behalf of the Picton president and executive.

Our club has had a successful year and is thriving. We have not forgotten the help and guidance given by the Marlborough RSA and staff from the beginning of our efforts to obtain the Charter. Your assistance with debentures, donations and whole-hearted support is very much appreciated.

The welfare committee members visited WW1 veterans and dispensed the usual Christmas cheer.

The monthly social and dance continues to attract a happy following and we are fortunate with the musical talent under Des York's direction, namely Tom McManaway, Les Evans, Denis Fletcher and Joyce Weetman, all RSA members or with close club affiliations, and who do not play for gain.

Also voluntary are the Sunseekers band headed by Alan Swann, with members Malcolm Baxter, Rex Giddens, Danny Linton and Noel Neilson. From this band and it's wives, friends, helpers, families and some club members, has evolved the "Sunseekers Social Club." Make no mistake, this is no half-baked sloppy pack of amateurs, but a first-rate entertainment group with their acts rehearsed down to the last detail. Jim Taylor was proud to be made an honorary member recently.

To both our bands and their helpers. Thanks a million.

Des York's band provided the music for the Christmas Social and the January 17 dance, both of which were well patronised and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. They will be playing for the next social on February 21 and another great night is assured.

On Friday February 6, the Sunseekers provided the music in the downstairs lounge throughout the evening.

A new public address system has been installed throughout the clubrooms and is a great advantage.

Joan and I were away for much of December and January but I understand there were a great many visitors to the club.

We must not forget the tremendous job done by the voluntary helpers throughout the year, both male and female. A special thanks perhaps for those on duty during the particularly long and busy social and holiday evenings when they occur.

I see Vern Jury back with us from his look at the Thames scene. He decided that although there was an excellent RSA up there, the more leisurely pace of Picton could not be bettered. Welcome back, Vern.

The gremlins appear to have got into the December issue of our news and a line or two were missed out. Here again is the relevant paragraph.

A request for information: Can anyone provide any clues as to the location of the RSA Club cornet? Inquiries so far have drawn a blank. Perhaps it lies forgotten in that seldom used cupboard. A warm welcome awaits it's return or information as to it's whereabouts.

During the evening of the Awards presentations on December 6, an appeal for funds for a colour TV for the clubhouse was launched by Alan Swann, assisted by Miss Sheena Boese. This got off to a good start and the amount is steadily increasing.

—CLIVE M. TAYLOR.

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## PICTON WOMEN

By the time this is read during February, we will all no doubt be benefitting or otherwise from the long break since our November activities and ready to start afresh on another year.

Those of us who attended the Blenheim section's dinner party on December 3 were treated to an excellent meal and really good entertainment. Picton and Renwick entertainment groups will have to be on their toes for the future.

December 9 was the morning of the



Waikawa Bay Playcentre Christmas party held once again in the RSA social room, and the section members who accepted the invitation to be present enjoyed not only a splendid calorie-filled morning tea, but had the pleasure of watching the delight among the pre-schoolers as Father Christmas arrived to hand out the gifts.

As Clive will be writing an account of the Awards presentations held on December 6, I will make a few observations of the evening from my own feminine viewpoint.

For me the evening started when Mrs Peter Ashfield and I each accompanied our husbands in their cars to collect some of the older folk from Wesley House who were to attend the function.

Among them were our two W.S. Patronesses and Life Members, Rose Townshend and Mrs Duckworth.

Later during the evening when our president June Ireland was speaking at the Awards presentation, we were all delighted when she mentioned Rose, herself an honorary life member and holder of the M.B.E. and then came a charming gesture as June pinned a shoulder spray to Rose.

We were all equally pleased for Dorothy Murrell when Mr Leuchars pinned Johnny's old badge on to her gown.

I know I am joined by Margaret Charters, Dorothy Dahlberg and Eileen Mattingley in thanking all fellow members who did so much behind the scenes to help make the evening a happy memory for us on such a proud occasion, in particular our president June Ireland.

To the executive and members of the Picton RSA, we are deeply conscious of the high honour accorded to us and appreciate your trust.

And finally, to Johnny and Dorothy Murrell: "Thanks a million" for so graciously sharing your wonderful evening with us. Get well soon.

—JOAN M. TAYLOR

## WOMEN'S SECTION MARLBOROUGH RSA

Our social afternoons resumed on February 11 and an interesting programme was arranged.

After a break of two months and the recent glorious weather, members will be refreshed and ready for the remaining meetings of our 1980-81 year.

The veterans Christmas party was an outstanding success and the guests were welcomed by Mrs Kennington and Mr Hemming. Entertainment was provided by the Orphans Club and the women's section.

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## PROGRESS

Strange electrical contrivances have superseded steam.

The old-time sailing vessel is an antiquated dream.

We have our horseless carriages that are driven by the rich?

Our women wear silk hosiery and never knit a stitch.

The stomach-ache we used to have, is appendicitis now.

We are eating dairy butter that never saw a cow.

Progress is our motto, modern times have come to stay.

Thank God we make our babies in the good old-fashioned way.

—C.A.C.

---

Heard by a New Zealander while marching in the Anzac Day dawn parade in Sydney:

First Aussie Digger: Do you remember when we were camped in the south of England and they used to put that stuff in the vegetables to stop us chasing the girls?

Second Aussie Digger: Yes, I remember it well. Why?

First Digger: I think it is just starting to work.

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LUNCH AT THE RSA — 12 to 1.30

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# PRESENTATION OF HONOURS AWARDS

PICTON R.S.A.  
6/12/80

Immediately prior to the official function, Ross Fredericks, who was M.C. for the evening, announced the playing of "The Last Post" in remembrance of fallen comrades.

This was faultlessly played by Danny Linton in the darkened hall before an illuminated cross. Many of the 200 people present found it a moving experience.

Jim Maxwell read the dedication and then introduced the Dominion President of the R.S.A., Mr Doug Leuchars, who presented the National Award of merit badge to Johnny Murrell, particularly for his welfare work at the hospitals and visiting the homes of WW1 veterans.

Johnny is already the holder of an RSA Life Membership Award, which he received in 1973.

In his reply Johnny spoke movingly of the pleasure he received through helping with the welfare work and his appreciation of the turnout.

The official party also included District President Vern Anderson, Marlborough RSA president Ron Hemming, Picton RSA President, Jim Maxwell, Picton RSA secretary Gordon Mattingley accompanied by their ladies, and Picton's Mayor and Mayoress Mr and Mrs Alan Beaton.

The four members of the women's section to be accorded Honorary Life Membership of the Picton Branch, Marlborough RSA, were called forward and following introductory remarks by their President June Ireland, were each presented with the Award Certificates by Picton President Jim Maxwell, who read the citations.

District President's wife, Mrs Vern Anderson, pinned the Life Membership badges to each of the four recipients, following which committee members of the women's section assisted June Ireland in presenting floral sprays to their four fellow members and all ladies in the official party.

Following this the four members replied, expressing their appreciation

of the honour received, and their enjoyment in the involvement with RSA activities.

The recipients of the awards were:  
MARGARET A. CHARTERS  
DOROTHY M. DAHLBERG  
EILEEN MATTINGLEY  
JOAN M. TAYLOR

Congratulations all round were the next in line, and to Johnny and the girls — one in particular — I offer my own hearty good wishes.

The remainder of the evening was taken over by the Sunseekers Band and Social Club who provided superlative entertainment and much hilarity to round off what will be a memorable occasion.

The women's section members provided and served an excellent supper, and those dispensing liquid refreshment also had a busy time.

Thanks to all those involved in any way for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

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Who was the Air Force chap who took over the wheel of the Matai coming back from a fishing trip and nearly ended up at Rai Valley?

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Disembowelling takes some guts.

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Halitosis is better than no breath at all

---

I'd rather have a full bottle in front of me than a full frontal labotomy.

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Keep Blenheim tidy—eat a pigeon a day.

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Just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

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Is a castrated pig disgruntled?

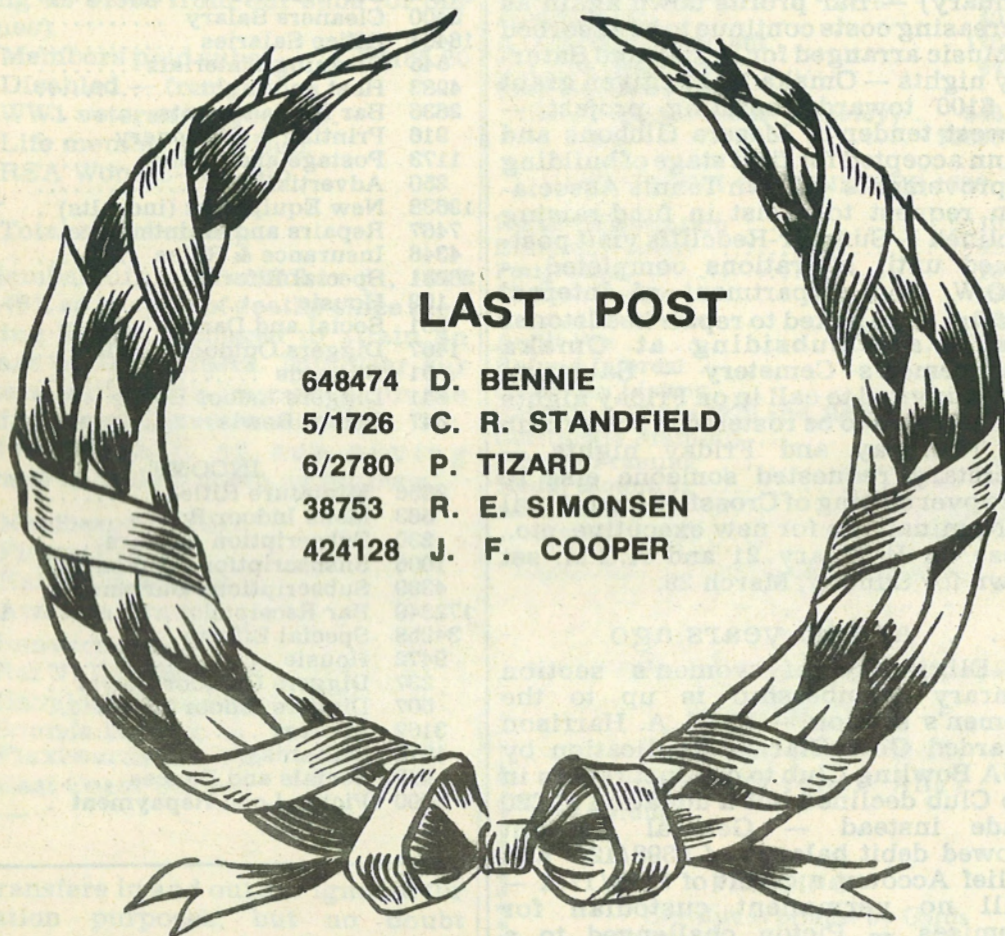
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Help your local police force — beat yourself up.

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# LAST POST



## LAST POST

648474 D. BENNIE  
5/1726 C. R. STANDFIELD  
6/2780 P. TIZARD  
38753 R. E. SIMONSEN  
424128 J. F. COOPER

## 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.



## Excerpts from December and January Executive Meetings

Peter McIntyre prints hung in club-rooms — First Service members approved (32 in December and 58 in January) — Bar profits down again as increasing costs continue to be absorbed — Music arranged for Friday and Saturday nights — Omaka Marae given grant of \$100 towards building project — Lowest tender of Messrs Gibbons and Dunn accepted for first stage of building improvements — Lawn Tennis Association request to assist in fund-raising declined — Sumner-Redcliffs visit postponed until alterations completed — M.O.W. and Department of Internal Affairs to be asked to repair headstones which are subsiding at Omaka Servicemen's Cemetery — Salvation Army invited to call in on Friday nights — Executive to be rostered to police club on Thursday and Friday nights — Secretary requested someone else to take over editing of Crossfire from April — Nominations for new executive, etc., close on February 21 and A.G.M. set down for Sunday, March 29.

### . . . and 25 years ago

Eligibility of women's section honorary membership is up to the women's section — Mr F. A. Harrison awarded Gold Star — Application by RSA Bowling Club to conduct raffles in the Club declined but a donation of £20 made instead — General Account showed debit balance of £398/12/- and Relief Account a credit of £199/17/1 — Still no permanent custodian for premises — Picton challenged to a cricket match — card evenings have raised £53 — Biscuits and cheese to be provided for counter lunches.

### . . . and 30 years ago

Proposed re-union cancelled and four 18 gallon kegs to be disposed of — Collection for the Nurses Memorial reached £206 — Queen Carnival under way — Kiwi Concert Party visit enjoyed by all — Land Settlement delays referred to D.E.C.

## 12 MONTHS GENERAL ACCOUNT COMPARISON

### EXPENDITURE

1979		1980
4162	Capitation, Badges .....	4073
98919	Bar Purchases .....	118385
958	Counter Lunches .....	1236
36452	Bar Salaries .....	45747
5400	Cleaners Salary .....	4623
18404	Office Salaries .....	20670
545	Cleaning Materials .....	1400
4983	Heat and Light .....	5727
2636	Bar Replacements .....	1953
916	Printing & Stationery .....	1394
1173	Postage and Phones .....	1415
250	Advertising .....	160
13638	New Equipment (inc. alts) .	1020
7467	Repairs and Maintenance ..	4750
4346	Insurance & Rates .....	3037
26281	Special Efforts .....	27639
192	Housie .....	330
261	Social and Dances .....	657
1467	Diggers Outdoor Bowls ....	1126
51	Billiards .....	947
841	Diggers Indoor Bowls .....	657
347	Indoor Bowls .....	307

### INCOME

		1975
2656	Miniature Rifles .....	1975
563	Mens Indoor Bowls .....	228
230	Subscription Arrears ....	234
1006	Subscriptions Advance .	1796
4300	Subscriptions Current ...	6159
172849	Bar Receipts .....	199019
34958	Special Efforts .....	40045
9472	Housie .....	7201
237	Diggers Outdoor Bowls ..	634
507	Diggers Indoor Bowls ...	156
3169	Interest .....	2038
1076	Billiards .....	1103
492	Socials and Dances .....	1345
2000	Picton Loan Repayment .	2000

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The best things in life are duty-free.

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In a survey carried out to see what men liked about women's legs, 27% said they preferred women with fat legs, and 15% said they preferred women with thin legs. The other 58% said they preferred something in between.



# 1980 MEMBERSHIP

The following is a summary of our membership at December 31, 1980, and is the basis for the payment of capitulation during 1981 at the rate of \$3.50 per head (1502 x \$3.50=\$5257 payable, leaving us \$1908 from our subs for our own use).

1360 Members paid subs	\$7165.20
9 Disabled — free sub.	
58 WW1 veterans—free sub.	
42 Life members—no sub.	
33 RSA Women—no sub.	

## 1502 Total membership

Membership at December 31, 1979 was 1461, so in spite of deaths since then totalling 51, we managed to attain an increase of 41 members. This year our numbers will again improve with the introduction of Service members.

Membership of sub-paying members is broken down as follows:

997 Marlborough RSA
197 Picton Branch
69 Kaikoura Branch
34 Awatere Branch
17 Renwick Branch
17 Rai Valley Branch
14 Havelock Branch
6 Sounds Branch
6 Flaxbourne Branch
3 East Coast Branch

## 1360

Transfers in and out are ignored for capitation purposes, but no doubt interesting to members is the fact that we had 39 transfers in and 32 transfers out.

## GRANTS, DONATIONS SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS 1980

Heritage .....	2.00
Ex-Malayan Assn .....	60.00
N.Z.R.S.A. Plaque .....	19.70
Air Cadet League .....	292.20
Indoor Bowls Visits .....	150.00
Dist. President's Allowance .....	73.00
President's Allowance .....	500.00
Battle of Britain .....	56.83
Omaka Marae .....	100.00

Clubhouse Social .....	130.68
Entertainment WW1 Veterans .....	299.88
Forces Overseas Parcels .....	132.35
RSA Bowling Club Visits .....	100.00
Anzac day Entertainment .....	184.50
Womens Section Dinner .....	109.83
Presentation Ensigns .....	119.70
Entertain Savage Club .....	24.89
Marlborough Emergency Refuge .....	200.00
Porirua Visit .....	40.00
A.G.M. Entertainment .....	176.40
Diggers Golf Prizes .....	44.01
Staff Retirements	
(Boddington, Brooks, Moseley) .....	543.25
Total .....	\$3359.22

## BREAKDOWN OF SUNDRIES 1980

Rules Registration .....	10.00
Building Permit .....	82.00
Petty Cash .....	10.00
Cheque Books .....	28.00
Annual Valuation .....	25.00
Audit Fee .....	950.33
Refund Interest .....	146.25
Directory Listing .....	17.00
Executive Photo 1979 and 1980 .....	186.74
Certificate Framing .....	32.04
Picture Framing .....	124.96
Medal Mounting .....	6.50
Advertising .....	160.01
Total .....	\$1778.83

## EDITORIAL

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

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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.



# EX-MALAYAN ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welcome to another year members and my best-wishes to all of you and your families.

February and March are going to be busy months for Ex-Malayans as we have our AGM on February 25, then in late February and early March we will again be delivering the voting papers for the Marlborough RSA executive elections. The RSA AGM is being held on Sunday, March 29.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EX-MALAYAN ASSN:** Members are requested to attend the AGM which will be held in the RSA meeting room on Wednesday, February 25, at 2000 hours. This will be immediately after our regular monthly meeting which will commence at 1930 hours.

Business: Minutes of previous AGM; Adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet; Election of Officers; General.

All positions are open for nominations, which will be accepted in writing prior to, and also from the floor of, the meeting. All members and intending members are requested to attend.

**1981 SUBS:** These are now due at a fee of \$5.00 and are payable to the Branch Secretary.

**FAMILY PICNIC:** A family picnic will again be held at Geoff Corbett's property, Onekoura Beach, Grove Arm, on Sunday, March 15. This is situated approximately half a mile on the Picton side of Momorangi Bay. For those coming by road, the entrance will be signposted with a triangular marker and arrow and for those who choose to come by sea a triangular marker will be sited at the end of the jetty.

It is intended to spit roast a sheep to supplement your rations, barbeques will also be available on site for those who wish to use them and ice cream, lollies and cordial will be provided for the children. To assist with the catering arrangements don't forget to let Bob Fidler (88-300) or Peter Callahan (85-995) know, or send in the coupon which was with the last association newsletter.

This is to be a family fun day so come along and give Mum and the kids an enjoyable day out.

**WAR SERVICE PENSIONS:** Our thanks go to Jim Perry, National Vice-President, for the effort he has put into compiling a case for War Service Pension rights for Ex-Malayan servicemen and after having seen his submissions I feel sure that justice will prevail and Ex-Malayan servicemen will receive the privileges to which they are justly entitled.

**THE HANGI:** Once again this was an outstanding success and our thanks go to all who assisted in any way. An estimated 250 men, women and children consumed 2 sheep, 1 pig, 20 large chooks, 1 sack potatoes, kumara, cabbages, peas, 10 gallons of ice cream, 10 dozen ice blocks, 22 dozen soft drinks and a fair quantity of Tiger substitute.

It was also great to see the talent that emerges at functions such as this and the band's repertoire of children's songs, together with Ricky's rendition of Flick the Little Fire Engine and others, together with the children's chorus will long be remembered.

Thought for the month:

## THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS

Mother Nature fills our every need  
And so to us she sends,  
To help us in so many ways  
The company of friends  
When times are good and joy abounds  
True happiness depends,  
On the sharing of good fortune in  
The company of friends.  
And when sad times befall us and  
a gloom on us descends,  
What better tonic can we have  
than the company of friends.  
We can share our joys, tears and hopes  
As life's pathway onward wends,  
And be thankful for this blessed gift,  
The company of friends.

---

★ "I THOUGHT you were going to visit that blonde in her flat tonight?"

"I did."

"Well, how come you're home so early?"

"Because after we sat around talking for a while she turned out the lights. I can take a hint."

★



# ALEXANDRIA — EGYPT

About two weeks before the famous battle of El Alamein in the Western Desert I was lucky enough to have my number drawn which entitled me to seven days leave in the ancient and historic Mediterranean sea port and city of Alexandria. Now, some 38 years later I will endeavour to paint for you a memory picture in words of that delightful and very interesting holiday that enabled me to visit and view many historic places and so add to my life-long interest in history.

During the Ptolemaic period the world-famous "Pharos" was built in 280 BC by Ptolemy Philadelphus, the first light-house known to history. It was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It fell into decay in later ages and was finally destroyed by earthquake in 1307.

After Alexander's death 323 BC his city and the whole of Egypt fell into the possession of one of the deceased king's generals, Ptolemy Soter, who made himself king of the land and with him began the royal line of Ptolemies, who reigned through one of the most famous periods of Alexandrias. Their dynasty finished with the famous Queen Cleopatra, after whose death the whole of Egypt passed into the possession of Augustus Caesar and became part of the Roman Empire.

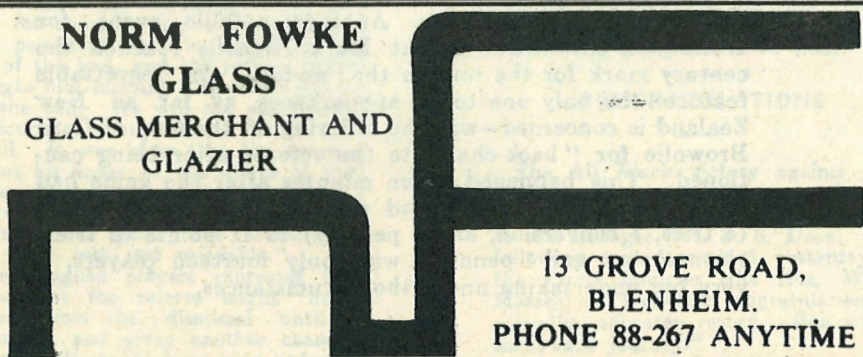
Among the scholars and scientists, whose learning made Alexandria famous in the Ptolemaic period, are the geometrician Euclid, the geographers Eratosthenes and Ptolemy and Heron, who invented the first steam-engine and a forcing-pump, used as a fire-engine.

Among Alexandrian poets, attracted by the famous library and university, are Theocritus, Callimachus and Apollonius of Rhodes. Early in the days of the Roman occupation, Alexandria became a Christian city, the conversion of large numbers of the inhabitants being attributed to St Mark, who suffered martyrdom there.

In 641 AD the city, along with the whole of Egypt, was captured by the Mohammedan General Amr. In 1517 it fell into the hands of the Turks. In 1798 Napoleon landed at Alexandria. His expedition which might have seen him firmly established in Egypt, was fated for disaster from the moment when Nelson defeated Napoleon's fleet in the crushing victory of Aboukir. And the French were finally driven from Alexandria in 1801 by the British forces led by Sir Ralph Abercromby, though the general himself was killed in an earlier battle and his work was finished by his successor, General Hurchison.

In my school days history had always held a special fascination for me and now during my war service in Egypt and Italy whenever the chance arose I did my best to enrich my knowledge at first hand because had it not been for the war, few of us would have ever been able to afford to see so much of the world as we did and so I now do my best to record in these true stories my viewpoint of the many wonders of art, architecture and historic places that I was privileged to visit and see, plus the three races and cultures I met and studied which enriched and broadened my perspective of life.—C. M. J. WATSON.

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# RUGBY 1925 . . .

With the rugby season only 49 days away we thought it appropriate to include the following extract from the Evening Post.

## UNCONQUERED

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### ALL BLACKS DEFEAT ENGLAND

---

### GREATEST GAME OF THE TOUR

---

### SVENSON SCORES TWO TRIES

---

New Zealand waited expectantly all day Saturday for news of the All Blacks in the final Test match against England at Twickenham, and at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning the information came through by cable, and was circulated in devious ways. There were not many people who by 7 o'clock had not heard the result, either as a result of wireless broadcasting or by word of mouth, and all were feeling elated at the victory. As the news was received so early nothing like concerted enthusiasm was seen, but New Zealand's appreciation of the victory was none the less deep for all that. By the win over England, a record has been created by the fact that the 1924-25 All Blacks are the first Rugby team to tour the British Isles without losing a match. England has only once previously been defeated on the Twickenham ground—in 1912, when South Africa were the victors. It is a notable fact that K. S. Svenson, the Wellington three-quarter who has played so prominently throughout the tour, scored the first try in the first match—against Devon—and the last try in the last match of the English portion of the tour. Another notable event for Wellington enthusiasts is that Mark Nicholls reached the century mark for the tour in the match. A regrettable feature—the only one to all appearances as far as New Zealand is concerned—was the ordering off the field of Cyril Brownlie for "back-chat" to the referee after being cautioned. This happened seven minutes after the game had started, so that New Zealand won the game by 17 points (4 tries, 1 conversion, and 1 penalty) to 11 points (2 tries, 1 conversion, and 1 penalty), with only fourteen players, a very big undertaking under the circumstances.



## THE BROWNIE INCIDENT

### SHOULD AN ENGLISHMAN HAVE GONE TOO?

(AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CABLE ASSOCIATION.)

LONDON, 3rd January.

The All Black v. England match of 1925 will always be remembered for the sensational punishment of Cyril Brownlie, who was ordered off eight minutes after the start of the game for retorting to the referee, who had previously cautioned him for using his fists and knees in the scrum. The incident followed a scrummage in which A. T. Voyce, of Gloucester, was hurt in the month. The Englishmen in the opening stages showed such surprising dash that the All Blacks hardly saw the ball. The crowd of 50,000 was watching the Home side's first successful aggressive movement, and there was a tumult of excitement as Corbett and Davies crossed the All Blacks' line unopposed. Suddenly there was an unforgettable silence, the crowd realising that something was amiss, and that the whistle had previously been blown. Then C. Brownlie separated himself from the group in obedience to the referee's gesture, and walked dejectedly, head down, fifty yards to the exit under the Prince of Wales's and Mr. Baldwin's box. It was a most unexpected and tragic moment in classic Rugby. The crowd, unaware of the nature of the offence, felt it marred the glory of a triumphal tour at its climax, and later showed exaggerated generosity in cheering the New Zealanders' prowess.

The referee, Mr. A. Freethy, of Wales, stated after the match, that he ordered C. Brownlie off for deliberately kicking on the leg an English forward who was lying face downwards on the ground. Mr. Freethy adds that he had warned each side generally three times, and therefore was obliged to act drastically.

Brownlie's comrades were grievously discouraged by the incident, and, for a time, lacked "zip."

Interviewed after the match, W. W. Wakefield, captain of the English side, said: "Brownlie has only himself to blame. He was cautioned twice or thrice for swinging his arms and legs about, persistently playing the man instead of the ball, and the referee finally caught him tackling a man five yards from the ball. We will not stand that behaviour from any team. It is not football. It was clear that the referee had put his finger on the source of the trouble, because after Brownlie's departure there was not a single untoward incident. The game was beautifully clean, hard, fast, and enjoyable."

Other English players expressed the opinion that the referee might have refrained from the dismissal until a later stage, and given another chance. One said: "It would have been unfortunate if we had won, seeing that the All Blacks were playing a man short." The

Englishman who was beside Brownlie commented: "Brownlie foolishly gave back-chat. That settled it. The referee pointed to the pavilion."

Mr. Dean was visibly affected, and said it was a regrettable incident in the most important match of the tour. He declined to comment apart from saying that he saw a little bit of temper in the opening stages on both sides. "England surprised us the way they got off the mark, going great guns. The speed and accuracy in the passing and the strong kicking of their three-quarters was remarkable. Luckily for us England did not make better use of their chances in the first ten minutes."

Some members of the New Zealand team state that Brownlie was not the aggressor, but retaliated when struck by a player who had been previously warned three times.

The "Sunday Express" says Mr. Freethy, the referee, after the match, said: "I have for a long time admired Brownlie's play. I spoke to both the captains before the match and emphasised that they must impress upon players to keep their tempers, warned two players on either side and gave two general warnings to the teams before I ordered Brownlie off the field. It hurt me very much to do this, but I felt I had no alternative."

Brownlie said: "It was a piece of sheer ill-luck on my part. I found myself involved in a series of minor retaliations and was unfortunate to be dropped upon as the second man in the affair. I am most sorry this has happened in the last match, but I do think another man should have gone off the field besides myself. Nevertheless there is no ill-feeling."

## THE DARLING OF THE CROWD

(STREET SUN CABLE.)

LONDON, 3rd January.

Nepia was again the idol of the crowd. His line kicking was magnificent, and he was always pushing in the thickest of the fray. After the match he said: "Gee! It was the fastest game ever. That fellow Gibbs runs like a hare, I could not catch him."

## CONGRATULATIONS

The All Black victory against England has resulted in a number of congratulatory cablegrams being forwarded to the manager (Mr. S. S. Dean). The following was forwarded yesterday by the Prime Minister (the Hon. W. F. Massey):—"Warmest congratulations on splendid, unbeaten record. Bon voyage homeward journey."



# BEERS OF YESTERDAY

Before the advent of continuous fermentation the country's beer drinkers were served by many local breweries who used the traditional batch method of brewing. We produce here some advertisements for brews which were popular 60 years ago and some of our members may remember them, or more important, remember the taste of the brew.



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I'd rather have a smile now, from friends I know are true,  
Than tears shed round my casket when I bid this life adieu,  
So give me please your flowers today, whether white or red,  
I'd rather have one blossom now, than a truck load when I'm dead.



# TROTTING TALK . . .

From an Australia Trotting Journal,  
January, 1981.

## Delightful Lady's 29th win



DELIGHTFUL LADY to turn the tables on Hands Down.

That is my confident prediction for the \$120,000 Auckland Trotting Cup at Alexandra Park in February.

Hands Down beat Delightful Lady by a neck after a memorable duel in the New Zealand Cup at Addington. And Hands Down went on to take both the New Zealand Free-for-All and the Allan Maison Free-for-All to make a clean sweep of the major pacing races at the Cup meeting. No doubt about it, he is some horse.

But on her home track, Delightful Lady is unbeatable.

What a wonderful mare she is.

Three nights after her epic run in the New Zealand Cup — she was on the back mark, 15 metres and Hands Down started from the front — she lined up in the \$20,000 Franklin Cup at Alexandra Park.

The 3200-metre race had a c8 front and Delightful Lady started from the "impossible" mark of 55 metres. It was no mug field, either, with Greg Robinson (fourth in the New Zealand Cup) on 20 metres and other good sorts engaged.

Delightful Lady not only won easily; she recorded fresh national figures of 4:5.8 — probably a world record for pacers, as well.

To do this so soon after running a tick over 4:6 at Addington, plus, of course, the trip home from Christchurch, was almost unbelievable.

No one now can doubt that Delightful Lady is the best racemare ever produced in New Zealand.

On top of that, she lined up a week later in the 1ZB Allrounder Handicap, a 2700-metre invitation event at Alexandra Park.

She had had such a strenuous programme in the preceding few weeks her trainer, Michael Stormont, gave her a few days off.

Any hopes rival owners and trainers might have had that she might not be at her very best were just wishful thinking.

Off the luxury mark (for her) of 25 metres, she won as she liked from Greg Robinson and Gold Rand.

Her time of 3.27.6 was only two-tenths of a second outside Young Quinn's national record.

It was Delightful Lady's 29th victory, making her easily the "winningest" mare in New Zealand history.

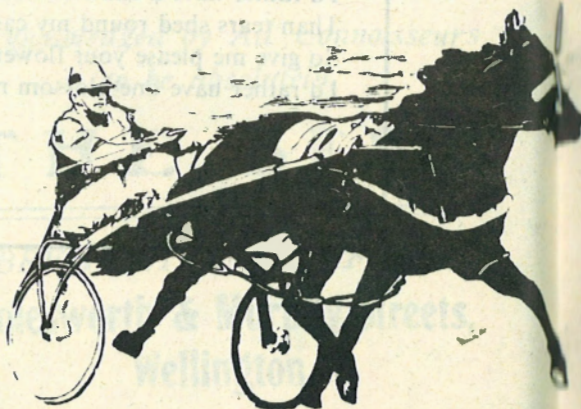
At Alexandra Park, she has had a staggering 24 wins.

The Auckland Cup has a mobile start — the distance is 2700 metres — so Delightful Lady will be off the same mark as her rivals.

Good though Hands Down is, I can't see him beating her on these terms, especially as he has had no experience of the right-handed track.

Delightful Lady won the Cup last year with a record-breaking run at the expense of Lord Module and all the other big guns from the south.

Make no mistake, all going well in the interim, she is going to take the honours again.





# Chief Inspector Sowter

HORSE-RACING IN New Zealand has long had a worldwide reputation not only for the quality of the horses, both standardbred and thoroughbred, but for its "cleanness" and overall standard of efficiency.

A vital role in this happy state of affairs is played by a team of racecourse inspectors employed by the racing and trotting conferences.

For years, the conferences have operated the scheme jointly, with inspectors in their respective areas covering a racing or trotting meeting as the case might be.

Now, the system is to be changed. The two codes will have their own men, with the changeover to take place at the end of the season.

While two separate operations are going to be more costly, there is no doubt it is a good thing.

Under the present setup, an inspector in a particular area just has not got the time to do both industries justice, especially with the large increase in recent years in the number of meetings and licence-holders.

The trotting conference has appointed Messrs Norman Sowter, of Auckland, Rod Carmichael, of Hamilton, and Barry Kitto, of Dunedin as inspectors. Mr Sowter is chief inspector.

Mr Sowter, who has had 12 years' experience, succeeded Mr Charles Dudley as racecourse inspector for the Auckland area on Mr Dudley's retirement two years ago.

He will continue to reside in Auckland



*Norman Sowter... new job with the New Zealand Trotting Conference.*

and assume responsibility for the northern area of the North Island.

Mr Sowter is highly respected and the conference is fortunate to have "won him over" from the galloping code.

Strictly speaking, Mr Sowter's duties at present embrace both racing and trotting.

But he has admitted that the bulk of his work concerns racing; he just does not have the time to give trotting full attention.

This state of affairs will be corrected with his appointment by the trotting conference.

Mr Carmichael will be based in Wellington and be responsible for the lower half of the North Island, Nelson and Marlborough.

Mr Kitto has been appointed to a position in Christchurch with responsibility for Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

## \$ to follow

### \*MISTER WOOD CHIPS

(B c. 2y, Timely Knight-Local Lustre. Trainer: G. T. Court). Looked unlucky when second to El Jefe in the Spring Time Stakes at Addington. Highly talented and could be a leading contender for top two-year-old honours.

### YOUNG PRIDE

(B c. 3y, by Young Charles-Ev's Pride. Trainer: J. A. Carmichael). Went a magnificent race for third in the N.Z. Derby. Lacks experience at this stage, but is obviously well above average and will be worth following.

### SUPERIOR CHANCE

B h. 5y, Jack Chance-San Vitalez. Trainer: T. J. Leitch. Rated 2min 3.1s for 2600m when he won on the final night of the Cup meeting. Will not be long racing with distinction against the best pacers in the land.

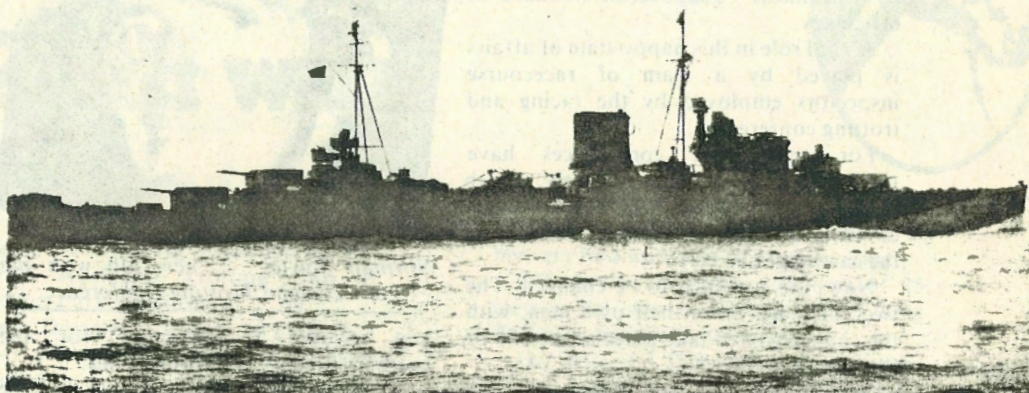
### EASTER MORN

(B h. 6y, Young Charles-Seaward Whispers. Trainer: J. B. Scott). Has won three races fairly quickly and looks capable of making his presence felt in much stronger company.

### BRASE

(B h. 4y, Armbo Del-Sakeba. Trainer: A. B. Holmes). Has been lightly raced this season and looks as though he could be one of the top performers in his age group. Really looks the part.





HMS *Neptune* coming out of Alexandria. When she was sunk by a mine on 19 December 1941, 150 New Zealanders were drowned

## Wellington Ceremony Commemorates Loss of 'Neptune'

Members of the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve held a special service in memory of those lost in the sinking of HMS *Neptune* on December 19, 1941.

The service was attended by by the Governor-General and was held in the Hall of memories, in the National War memorial in Buckle Street, at 10am on Sunday, December 14 last.

*Neptune* was one of the Leander class cruisers, as were *Achilles*, *Orion* and *Ajax*, and had 150 New Zealanders, including 18 from Wellington, aboard

when she was sunk.

All of them perished. Out of the entire ship's company of 750 officers and men there was only one survivor, a British petty officer.

A local man was amongst those lost in the sinking. He was Cyril G. Wright, AB NZD1544.

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### EXTRACT FROM THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE R.N.Z. NAVY.

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#### The Loss of HMS *Neptune*

ON 15 January 1941 the Prime Minister was informed by the Admiralty through the High Commissioner in London that the steadily increasing requirements of naval ratings arising from the building of new ships, in addition to heavy unforeseen commitments all involving a severe strain on the resources of trained ratings, were causing some concern. The Admiralty 'would, therefore, be



grateful if some further assistance, in addition to the considerable help which has been and is to be given by New Zealand could be undertaken.

The manning of an additional cruiser of the *Leander* class was envisaged, but it was fully realised that the provision of the necessary personnel would require a strenuous and sustained effort over a considerable period and that it could not, therefore, be done in the near future. The Admiralty suggested, however, that by means of dilution of existing New Zealand units to an extent approximating that already found essential in the Royal Navy, expansion of the New Zealand Division might be attained by, say, the end of 1941 for the manning of a third cruiser. Such dilution would follow the procedure already in operation in the Royal Navy, in which a heavy dilution of skilled ratings by men less qualified was being applied in order to release a proportion of experienced men to man new ships.

The Prime Minister replied that, in order to meet the requirements of Admiralty for more trained ratings, a new naval training establishment was being started and would commission as HMS *Tamaki* on 20 January 1941. When in full operation *Tamaki* would turn out at least 100 seamen, 40 signalmen and telegraphists, 20 stokers, and 36 supply ratings, trained for 'hostilities only', three times a year, in addition to the numbers entered for continuous service. The 'hostilities only' ratings entered under this scheme would be lent for service in the Royal Navy. The entry of continuous service ratings would be maintained at the peacetime numbers, which aimed at providing 100 per cent New Zealand personnel for the ships at present manned.

The Admiralty expressed appreciation of the Government's action in starting the new training establishment and informed the Prime Minister that it proposed gradually to form a New Zealand crew for an additional cruiser of the *Leander* class and that the selection of HMS *Neptune* had been approved.<sup>1</sup> The Admiralty suggested that, as soon as requirements for this ship in any particular branch had been met, New Zealand-trained ratings becoming available should be used in the East or Near East.

The *Neptune* was expected to leave the United Kingdom for New Zealand in late May or early June 1941. The New Zealand Government was prepared to accept responsibility for her maintenance on the same basis as for the *Leander* and *Achilles* and the Admiralty was so informed. Already a considerable number of New Zealanders – approximately one-fifth of her complement of ratings – had been drafted to the *Neptune*.

But, owing to heavy losses of cruisers during the Crete campaign and the critical position in the Mediterranean, the *Neptune* was not destined to see service on the New Zealand Station. She sailed from the United Kingdom about the end of May 1941 as one of a naval force escorting an important convoy for the Middle East. At that time a number of German ships were cruising in the Atlantic acting as supply vessels for U-boats and armed merchant raiders. One of them, the *Gonzenheim*, was sighted on 4 June by HMS *Esperance*



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*Bay*<sup>2</sup> which was not fast enough to catch her, but the German was located by an aircraft from the *Victorious*. The battleship *Nelson* intercepted the *Gonzenheim* and ordered the *Neptune* to board her; but her crew took scuttling action before this could be done and the cruiser sank her in a position about 750 miles west from Cape Finisterre.

When the *Neptune* arrived in the Mediterranean in July she rejoined the Seventh Cruiser Squadron, in which she had served during the previous year, and, in company with the *Leander*, HMAS *Hobart*, and other ships, took part in the transport of troops to Cyprus (Operation GUILLOTINE).<sup>3</sup> During the last week of October 1941 the *Neptune* took part in three bombardments of enemy positions in and about Bardia, on the coast of Libya. These were carried out as a preliminary to the offensive in the Western Desert by the British Eighth Army in November, in which the New Zealand Division played a notable part.

Submarines and aircraft based at Malta had been doing great work on the enemy's supply lines across the Mediterranean. In the period from 1 May to 20 August one-third of the ships sailing from Italy to North Africa were sunk. On 21 October Force 'K', consisting of the cruisers *Aurora* and *Penelope* and the destroyers *Lance* and *Lively*, arrived at Malta from England. Working in co-operation with the submarines and aircraft, Force 'K' played havoc with the enemy's convoys and completely disorganised the traffic to Tripoli. During October 1941 nearly 63 per cent of the shipping sailing from Italy to Tripoli was sunk in transit. In November 77 per cent was sunk or badly damaged and only 8400 tons reached its destination, the lowest monthly delivery during the war. The enemy retaliated with heavy air attacks on Malta, which was 'really the linchpin of the campaign in the Mediterranean.'<sup>1</sup>

In the early hours of 24 November two enemy convoys were reported to be making for Benghazi and a force of five cruisers, including the *Neptune*, and four destroyers sailed from Alexandria to try to intercept them. Admiral Cunningham took his three battleships and eight destroyers to sea from Alexandria in support of the cruisers. He suffered a severe blow next day when the battleship *Barham* was torpedoed and sunk with a loss of 862 lives.

The successes of Force 'K' had compelled the enemy to provide cruiser escorts and battleship support for his convoys. On 27 November the *Ajax* (flag of Rear-Admiral H. B. Rawlings) and *Neptune*, with the destroyers *Kimberley* and *Kingston*, sailed from Alexandria to reinforce Force 'K' which, on 1 December, sank an ammunition ship, a tanker, and a destroyer. In the early hours of 13 December the destroyers *Sikh*, *Maori*, and *Legion*, with the Netherlands destroyer *Isaac Sweers*, on passage from Gibraltar to Malta, made a surprise attack on two Italian 6-inch-gun cruisers and a torpedo-boat off Cape Bon, all three being sunk. On the following night the *Galatea*, one of Rear-Admiral Vian's cruisers, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat near Alexandria.

The operations of Force 'K' from Malta necessitated extreme measures to maintain the supply of fuel-oil in the island, and HMS *Breconshire*, a converted merchant ship which could carry 5000 tons



of oil, was generally used for that purpose. On 15 December 1941 Rear-Admiral Vian's cruisers and destroyers sailed from Alexandria to escort the *Breconshire* to Malta. The *Aurora*, *Penelope*, and six destroyers left Malta next evening and met Vian's force at daybreak on 17 December. When Italian heavy ships were reported at sea, the Commander-in-Chief ordered Vice-Admiral, Malta, to sail every ship he had to join Rear-Admiral Vian, whose force was continually attacked during the day by enemy aircraft, luckily without damage. In the evening an Italian force which included two battleships was sighted to the westward. Vian ordered the *Breconshire* away at full speed to the southward and boldly closed in to attack. The Italian battleships fired a few salvoes and then retired to the northward, disappearing in the darkness. The *Breconshire* was escorted safely to Malta by Force 'K'.

While Rear-Admiral Vian was returning at high speed to Alexandria, air reconnaissance from Malta on 18 December showed that the Italian battleship force had turned about and was cruising in an area about midway between Malta and Benghazi. This made it evident that enemy convoys had also turned and were aiming to arrive at Benghazi and Tripoli during the night. After refuelling, the *Neptune*, *Aurora*, and *Penelope*,<sup>1</sup> with the destroyers *Kandahar*, *Lance*, *Lively*, and *Havock*, sailed from Malta at high speed that evening to try to intercept the convoy off Tripoli. The force was under the command of Captain Rory O'Connor, of the *Neptune*.

The ships streamed their paravanes as they left harbour at 6.30 p.m. and less than an hour later had worked up to 30 knots. It was blowing hard from the west-south-west, with a heavy sea. At one o'clock in the morning speed was reduced to 28 knots and four minutes later to 24 knots. The force was about 20 miles from Tripoli and steaming in single line ahead on a course approximately south by west when, at 1.6 a.m., the *Neptune*, which was leading, appeared for an instant dark against a bright flash of flame. She had exploded a mine on one of her paravanes. The *Aurora*, which was next astern, instantly put her helm hard-a-starboard and then hard-a-port, but she, too, exploded a mine barely a minute later. The *Neptune* was going full speed astern when she hit another mine which wrecked her propellers and steering gear and brought her to a standstill. A minute or so later she exploded a third mine and took a heavy list to port. Force 'K' had run into a minefield which had been laid in deep water well off shore in April 1941 after a bombardment of Tripoli by Admiral Cunningham's battleships and cruisers.

A quarter of an hour before the *Neptune* hit the first mine, the *Penelope* had started her echo-sounding machine. No depth less than 120 fathoms (720 feet) was recorded between that time and 1.10 a.m. The sounding machine was tested subsequently and found to be working correctly.

At first, Captain A. D. Nicholl of the *Penelope* thought that the *Neptune* and *Aurora* had been torpedoed and he turned to starboard; but at 1.10 a.m. there was an explosion abreast his bridge and he realised that they had run into a minefield. No serious damage seemed to have been sustained by the *Penelope* and her engines and



steering gear were in full working order. She turned to the northward to get clear of the minefield and took station astern of the *Aurora*, which was then steering north-by-east at 10 knots. The *Aurora* was badly damaged, Tripoli and its airfields were barely 20 miles away, and it was imperative that the ship should get as far from the enemy coast before daybreak as her much-reduced speed would allow.

In the meantime the *Neptune* had signalled several times: 'Come alongside', and then that she was badly damaged and had lost all steam and power. Captain W. G. Agnew, in command in the *Aurora*, signalled to the *Kandahar*: 'One destroyer is to go alongside *Neptune*; the other three are to join me'; and, later, to the *Penelope*: 'I also am damaged and am returning to Malta. Do what you can for *Neptune*, but keep clear of the minefield. Give me two destroyers.'

Already, on finding that the *Penelope* was not seriously damaged, Captain Nicholl had asked permission to return towards the *Neptune*. His signal crossed that from the *Aurora* asking him to do so. He decided not to approach closer than two and a half miles from the *Neptune* until the situation became clearer, but considered it a justifiable risk to send the destroyer *Lively* closer in. He signalled to her: 'Close *Neptune* and let me know what I can do. Go on. Good luck.'

When he received the signal from the *Aurora*, Commander W. G. A. Robson, DSO, DSC, of the *Kandahar*, decided to take his own destroyer into the minefield, but at 2.18 a.m. the *Neptune* informed the *Penelope*: 'Have told *Kandahar* to lay off till I have drifted clear of the minefield. Am preparing to be taken in tow then.' Four minutes later the *Penelope*, who was preparing her towing gear, signalled the *Lively*: 'I will circle round here. I will come in if there is any chance of towing *Neptune*.' She also informed the *Kandahar*: 'Have told *Lively* to close *Neptune*: I will close and take *Neptune* in tow when signalled.' The *Lively*'s reply to the *Penelope* was: '*Neptune* mined and cannot steam. Ordered to tow. Am going back to her now.'

At 3.9 a.m., when two hours had elapsed since the *Neptune* was first mined, Captain Nicholl considered he should accept the risk and signalled to the *Neptune*: 'Am ready to tow you. Shall I come now?', to which the *Neptune* replied: 'Close on my port side.' The



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*Penelope* was cautiously edging her way in when, at 3.18 a.m., there was an explosion in the *Kandahar* about two miles away. She had struck a mine which blew off her stern. The *Penelope* was turning when Captain O'Connor, in the *Neptune*, flashed the warning: 'Keep away', and the *Kandahar* made a similar signal to the *Lively*. The *Kandahar* reported: 'After engine-room bulkhead is holding and ship can be towed. But realise this is impossible', and the *Penelope* made answer: 'Regret I must keep clear.' From the *Lively* came the message: 'Kandahar mined. She has ordered me out of the field.'

Nicholl still hoped that it might be possible to rescue the crews of the *Neptune* and *Kandahar*, but when, at about four o'clock, the *Neptune* hit a fourth mine, he decided that no further risks must be taken by the *Penelope* and *Lively*. Five minutes later the *Neptune* rolled over and sank. Nicholl faced a most difficult situation. It was against the custom of the sea to leave comrades in distress, but there was every chance that more ships and lives would be lost if he went back into the minefield. Sunrise was coming, too, and he was very near the enemy's coast.

From the *Kandahar* came the signal: '*Neptune* has touched off another mine', to which Captain Nicholl replied: 'I clearly cannot help. God be with you.' Commander Robson viewed the coming dawn from the bridge of his crippled ship and made a last signal to the *Penelope*: 'Suggest you should go. Consider sending submarine to pick up survivors.' As the cruiser steamed away she signalled to the *Lively*: 'Course 10 degrees (north by east). Speed, 15 knots.'

But Lieutenant-Commander W. F. E. Hussey, DSC, of the *Lively* took it hard. 'Suggest I go for *Neptune*'s survivors', he urged. When the *Penelope* replied: 'Regret not approved', he signalled: 'Suggest a submarine could be asked for', and Captain Nicholl answered: 'I am going to do that. I hate to leave them, but I am afraid we must.' As the two ships steamed at 25 knots for Malta, Nicholl broke wireless silence to suggest that a flying boat or a submarine be sent to pick up survivors from the mined ships.<sup>1</sup>

The *Kandahar* drifted all day unmolested by the enemy. Signals from her were received at Malta and she was sighted by friendly aircraft. After dark the destroyer *Jaguar*, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander L. R. K. Tyrwhitt, sailed from Malta to find the *Kandahar* by midnight and with orders to be clear of the area by daylight. Though assisted by an aircraft fitted with radar, the *Jaguar* did not find the *Kandahar* until 4 a.m. on 20 December. The sea was still so rough that the *Jaguar* could not go alongside without risk of serious damage, so she lay off while the *Kandahar*'s crew swam to her, after which the wreck was sunk. The *Jaguar* got safely back to Malta, having saved eight officers and 166 ratings.

When the *Neptune* struck the fourth mine the order was given to abandon ship. A heavy sea was running and the men had to go overboard. The ship sank within a few minutes, and death came quickly to most of her company. Many perished while trying to swim to the crippled *Kandahar*. According to the sole survivor of the *Neptune*, Leading Seaman John Walton, an English rating, only sixteen men were left afloat on a raft when daylight came. They



included Captain O'Connor and two other officers and one New Zealand rating, Able Seaman J. B. Quinn, of Kaiwarra, Wellington, who died on 20 December. One after another the little party succumbed to exhaustion and thirst. Captain O'Connor died on the fourth day. Finally, Walton was left all alone on the raft, from which he was rescued by an Italian destroyer on Christmas Eve. He was a prisoner of war in Italy until his release in 1943, and subsequently served as a petty officer in the minesweeper *Rowena* in the Mediterranean.

More than 750 men – 150 of them New Zealanders – died when HMS *Neptune* went down in the Mediterranean on that stormy morning. The names of two officers and 148 ratings furnished by far the longest list of casualties in the war record of the Royal New Zealand Navy, then but lately come of age. The *Neptune* was not a New Zealand ship as were her sisters, *Achilles* and *Leander*, but her loss brought grief to many homes in every city and major town in the Dominion, as well as to country villages from Auckland to Southland. Seventeen South Africans and two Australians died with their comrades from Great Britain and New Zealand.

The *Neptune* was the thirteenth British cruiser and the *Kandahar* the fifty-ninth British destroyer lost during the first twenty-eight months of the war. Within a few hours of their being mined, the *Queen Elizabeth* and *Valiant*, the two remaining battleships in the Mediterranean Fleet, were severely damaged in harbour at Alexandria by 'human torpedoes' and put out of action for long periods of time. These disastrous episodes followed closely after the crippling of the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour and the sinking of the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* off Malaya. It was a time of crisis in our fortunes.

#### TECHNICAL DATA OF H.M.S. NEPTUNE

7175 tons displacement

Speed: 32½ knots

Armament: Eight 6in, eight 4in anti-aircraft  
guns; eight 21in torpedo tubes.

Completed: February, 1934.



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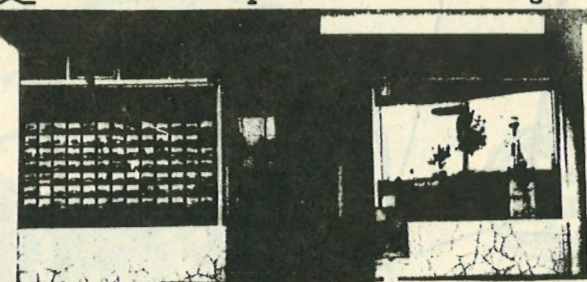
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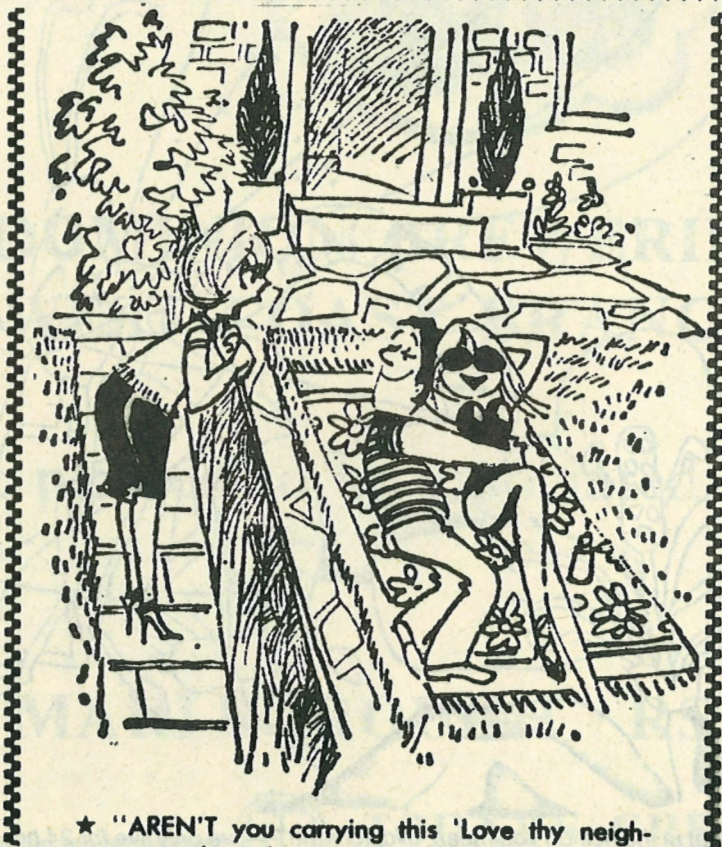
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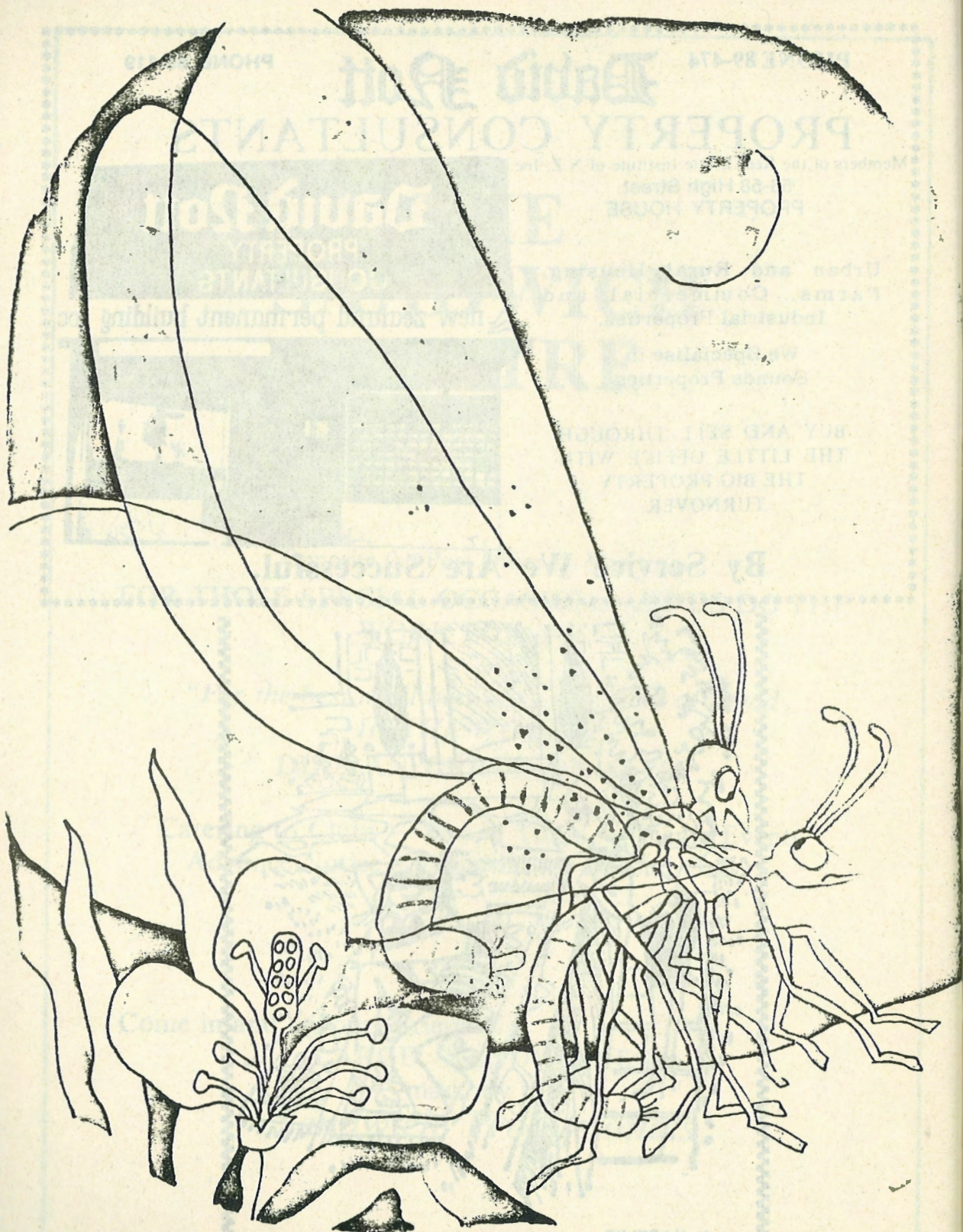


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★ "AREN'T you carrying this 'Love thy neighbor' thing too far, Edwin?"





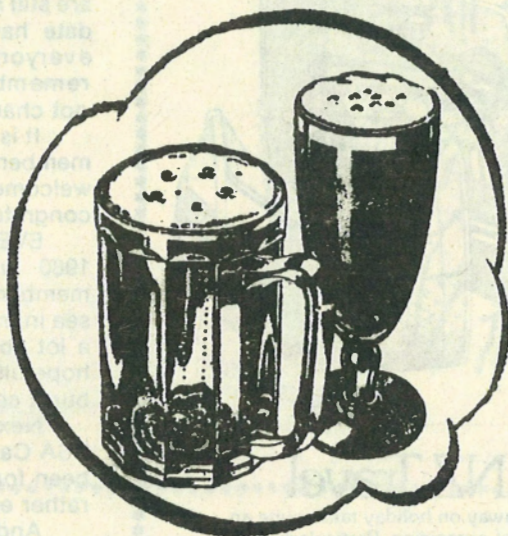
"What in the hell do you mean, 'Not tonight!'?—we only live for 24 hours!"



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Never because you are miserable."*

*G. K. Chesterton.*



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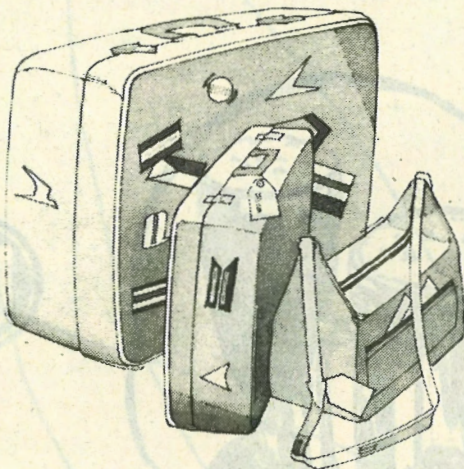
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## EX-MALAYAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the 3rd Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 1980.

**MEMBERSHIP:** This year we are posting 96 Newsletters to Ex-Malayans in the Blenheim area, which is an increase of 27 on last year's figures and although we have the largest paid-up membership of any branch in the country there are still a few people receiving newsletters but to date have not paid a subscription. So I ask everyone to pay their national subscription, remembering of course that this Branch does not charge a sub.

It is pleasing to report that we have two new members who reside in the Chatham Islands. I welcome Lennie Thomas and Ray Murphy and congratulate them on their choice of branch.

**EVENTS OF THE YEAR:** Our first function of 1980 was the picnic at Grove Arm where members and their families enjoyed a day by the sea in tranquil surroundings. Peter and I learned a lot about spit roasting a sheep that day and hopefully the next one will be served without a burnt crust!

Next on the agenda was the invasion of the RSA Cabaret, an enjoyable night and had it not been for Ex-Malayans the hall would have been rather empty.

And then our second hangi. I didn't think we could improve on the first one, but we did and for so few to entertain and feed so many was amazing. About 250 people turned up and I would like to thank again those members and non-members of the hangi party and band who helped make the day the success it was.

Alick Tapp and Derrick Marsh have again been elected to the committee of Heritage and Derrick Ian Glass and myself to the executive of the Marlborough RSA. It is pleasing to have younger members taking an active part in RSA affairs.

**FINANCE:** Once again our bank balance is not very large but that's the way it should be and we were successful in running our functions at very low cost to members which is of course our aim. Dave and Mike deserve our thanks again for their fund-raising efforts. Their task of organising the garage sale was carried out willingly and efficiently and the funds raised bolstered our bank account considerably.

**APPRECIATION:** I wish to thank all members of our committee for their continued support, help and loyalty throughout the year.

One person stands out above us all and he is of course our Secretary, Peter Callahan. Peter's

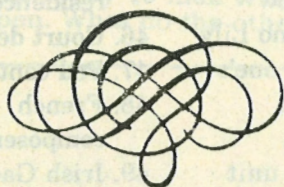
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efforts for the Branch since its inception have been immense and if any one person is responsible for the sound position we find ourselves in today it is he.

Peter is not standing again this year as his services are required elsewhere and I know every member joins with me in thanking Peter for his immeasurable service to the Branch and the Association as a whole over the last three years.

BOB FIDLER, President.



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# crossword puzzle 25

## ACROSS

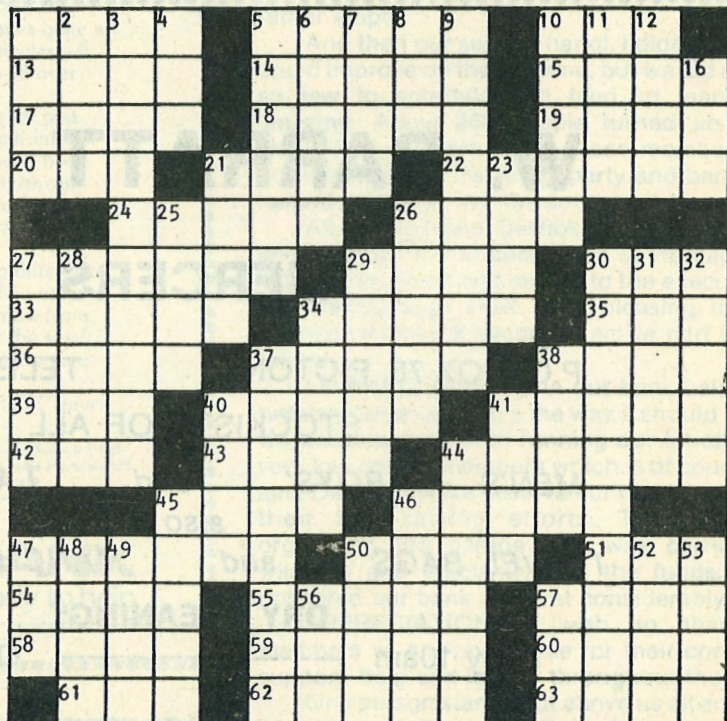
1. Deer
5. Inquired
10. Pig's milieu
13. Sea eagle
14. Fence  
crossing
15. Mine output
17. Evaluate
18. Pertaining to  
the Franks
19. Monster
20. Friend, in  
France
21. Smart
22. Lizard
24. Old hag
26. Despot
27. Customer
29. Goddess of  
discord
30. Pronoun
33. — lazuli
34. Sag
35. Flurry
36. Russian czar
37. Emulate  
Crosby
38. Vivacity
39. Sat
40. Fastening
41. Reminders
42. Dutch  
commune
43. Sewing  
machine  
inventor
44. Mean
45. Popular street
46. Actress Eve

47. Folds
50. Ash, for one
51. One of the  
Gershwins
54. Merit
55. Crown
57. Duel  
memento
58. Too
59. Went astray
60. Direction
61. Finished,  
poetically
62. Pauses
63. Catch sight of

## DOWN

1. Antitoxins
2. Vehicle
3. Foretaste

4. Haw and —
5. Agree to
6. Gape
7. Scot's garb
8. Whitney
9. Judgment
10. Clean
11. Roman garb
12. Tale
16. Meadow
21. Soprano Lily
23. Catch one's  
breath
25. Check
26. Army unit
27. Region, to a  
poet
28. Washed
29. Torn away
30. Mouth organs
31. Stupid one
32. Big game
34. Haggard
37. Monastery
38. Nota —
40. Talk
41. Ancient Asia
44. Fears
45. Estate  
residence
46. Court decree
47. Pod content
48. French  
composer
49. Irish Gaelic
50. Sailors
52. Grate
53. Bohemian
56. Wrath
57. Understand

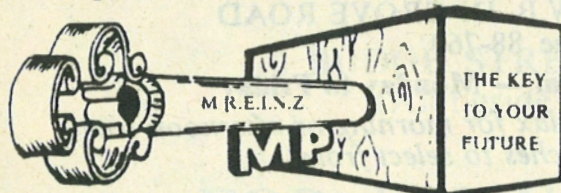


(Answer on Page 36)



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Is a lady barrister without her briefs a solicitor?



"DAY fourteen, and Heatherington is preparing supper."

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE 25



★ "YOU'RE the puniest, weakest, most cowardly and timid little man I've ever met," said Goliath. "And what are you scrabbling around in the dirt for?"

"I'm getting a little boulder," said David.



★ "I'VE never come up against any sex discrimination!"



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