



# Loophole

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE  
MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES' ASSN.

Vol. I No. 4 SEPTEMBER 1954

## PRESIDENTIAL

The annual Dominion Conference was held in Wellington in June, and was attended by Jim Bell, Vice-President; Lance Waters, new District Vice-President; Terry Madsen from Picton sub-Branch; Les Blunt of the Kaikoura Branch, and myself. My policy is to have representatives of the branches attend the Dominion Conference to enable branches to have some men available who are able to explain national policy to their branches. This is important, as many branches do not understand N.Z.R.S.A. policy on many matters. A study of remits sent to Conference shows that many of them had not been fully considered by executives in touch with national policy, and were discarded after wasting much time and paper. Any of the above members who attended Conference are available to branch meetings to explain policy, and to give a general account of the Conference. Some branches have already availed themselves of this.

The Association is in good heart and all the various activities are in full swing, with more and more members making use of the facilities the Club offers. Subscriptions are coming in well, thanks to the efforts of Percy Tizard, and at present we are the twelfth largest Association in N.Z. Some die-hards on the unfinancial list are all that clouds the horizon, and it is hoped that ex-servicemen will realise that we are here to help them, and that the subscription of 12/6 is a purely nominal one at today's values. The monetary aspect is not our main consideration. It is better to retain members and get new members—they are our assets.

DICK SCOTT, President.

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## ● The Last Post

The following returned men have answered the last roll call since our annual meeting:—

23124 Osgood, H. S.; 29269 Livingstone, A. E.; M.N. Older, B. E.; 382021 Hillman, E. H.; 6/330 Radd, E.; 23/493 Martin, H.; 6/1994 Sullivan, T.; 40691 Stedman, J. A.; 2/1819 Russel, W. E.; 7/180 Chayter L. C.; 14356 Gow, J. G.; 5/48 Ferguson, N.; 34501 Anderson, B.; 46183 Gregg, J. M.; 6/212 Couch, T. S.; 6/1158 O'Sullivan, G. W.; N.76024 Barrett, W. H.; 61583 Ballantyne, L. S.

They shall grow not old  
As we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them  
Nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.

## ● New Members

We welcome as new members to the Association the following returned ex-servicemen:—

6/3395 Gill, C. N.; N.Z. 10868 Faulding, R. F.; N.Z. 603789 Hope, L. H.; 4311394 Cuthers, J.; N. 12211 Rutland, C. A.; 208752 McKenzie, K. G.; 208742 Lucas, G. D.; 208753 Pickering, W. R.; 4/1784 Gibson, W. H.; 1260820 Palfrey, R.; 70482 Mulcare, J. V.; 629781 Woodcock, A. W.; 72605 Montgomery, W. S.; 50373 Patchett, W.; R.N. Ballinger, R. J.; 16013 Jones, C. B.; 206564 Smith, J. P.; 208577 Jones, B. R.; 208766 Stewart, B. C.; M.N. Gordon, P.A.T.; 7959361 Howard, H.; 76794 Dalton, J.; 37996 Manning, A. M.

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## To Our Advertisers

About ten months ago you were approached by a member of the Association's Committee armed with a notebook and a copy of a 16 page magazine issued by the Feilding R.S.A. He solicited your support which was freely given by your taking advertising space in our magazine now well known as "Loophole." The Association undertook to post four issues each of 16 pages to approximately 1700 returned servicemen in the Marlborough Province.

Our first issue of 16 pages was posted to 2000 members. The second was of 20 pages and posted to 2000 members. The third and this (fourth) issue are both of 24 pages and have been posted to 2000 members. In short, we contracted to post to our members 108,800 pages and have in fact posted out 168,000 pages without increasing the number of advertisers. It looked as if we had made a profit of about £10 on this venture, but the increase in size of "Loophole," in circulation, and increase in postage rate has shown that a loss will be made. No attempt is being made to recover this loss. We will, however, include an extra page of advertisements at the same rate as last year, to cover the extra costs mentioned. Four issues each of 24 pages will be posted to 2000 members in December, March, June and September. It is felt that from a doubtful beginning "Loophole" is now serving a useful purpose in the life of the Association. It can only survive with the advertising support of our members.

We look forward confidently to the renewal of your advertising in "Loophole" during the coming twelve months. The Association's thanks are gratefully acknowledged for your past support.

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## ● Rose Day

The Association will hold its annual appeal for funds this year during the week ending 6th November. The street appeal will be held in Blenheim on Friday when Roses will be sold by our Women's Section and their helpers. We have made several appeals for volunteers to come forward to assist the Women's Section in this task. Maybe this year we will have a better response than in the past.

Rose Day is Remembrance Day. In England, it is day which more or less matches Anzac Day in N.Z. It is the anniversary of Armistice Day, when at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, the cease fire was sounded to end the 1914-1918 world conflict.

Funds raised by the Association in November through the sale of Roses will be used exclusively for re-building purposes.

Could there be a more worthy cause?

## ● Building

The following item was contained in the President's Report; but space did not permit of its inclusion in the Presidential column. "The architect had discussions with members of your Executive when he was in Blenheim in July, and the sketch-plan will be available about the time this is in the press. The plan is for a L-shaped building of different stud heights. The higher portion, comprising the hall and its amenities, will be running the same way as the present hall, the other wing will run towards the School bridge and will contain all the Club amenities and offices. The Bowling Club will also have a pavilion at green level in addition to a pavilion in the main wing. When estimates are obtained, the facts will be put to a general meeting for a final decision, and we hope that we will be able to carry out the proposed plans."

—DICK SCOTT, President.

## ● Clubhouse Facilities

The facilities of the Clubhouse at Blenheim are available to financial members only, whether members belong to one of our nine sub-branches or to the Blenheim section. Members may bring to the Clubhouse a returned man of another Association as a visitor, when he should sign the visitors' book. The visitors' book is open to inspection by the Inspector of Chartered Clubs who may require an explanation from the Committee should the number of visitors be considered exceptional or the frequency of visits by a member of another Association be considered exceptional.

Usually, a visitor attends with his local friend for a short period—such as when on annual holiday. Members of other Associations when living in Marlborough should see that they are transferred to this Association and remain financial here if they wish to use the Clubhouse.

They are not entitled to free, unrestricted use of the Clubhouse indefinitely.

The conditions under which we were granted a Charter does not allow members to bring to the Club local residents or unfinancial members.

Posters have been displayed in the Clubhouse requesting members to wear their badges and to save themselves embarrassment. With two thousand returned men in Marlborough it is not reasonable to expect Executive members or the staff to personally know the financial ones, particularly when some live many miles away. If at any time, a financial member is asked if he is a member he must not take umbrage. He should know that by co-operating in this matter he is helping his Committee or the staff to carry out their duty. The Secretary at any time has the right to call on anyone present at the Clubhouse to prove his right to be there.

Fortunately there has been little need for this to be done; but members nevertheless, are earnestly requested to read and observe the Rules of the M.R.S.A. Chartered Club, which should not be confused with the Rules of the Association.

# Membership — Secretaries Conference

Here's how our membership stood on the 31st. August, 1954:—

31/8/54.	Place	Financial	Unfinancial	Total	Percentage Financial.
Flaxbourne	1	28	8	36	78%
Kaikoura	2	159	45	204	78%
East Coast	3	16	5	21	76%
Blenheim	4	882	356	1238	71%
Sounds	5	20	8	28	71%
Havelock	6	28	15	43	65%
Awatere	7	52	29	81	64%
Picton	8	127	98	225	57%
Renwicktown	9	46	30	76	53%
Rai Valley	10	12	20	32	38%
S.A. Veterans		40		40	100%
Life Members		22		22	100%
Total:		1432	614	2046	70%
Branches		488	258	746	65%

At the 31st. July N.Z.R.S.A. financial membership stood at 65,416. At the same date your Association had a total of 1368 members. This put Marlborough in 12th place. Though there are just over one hundred Associations, the figures above quoted, covered only 89 Associations. There were 23,912 members in the South Island and 41,504 in the North. Apart from the four main centres, larger Associations than Marlborough are New Plymouth, Hutt Valley, Invercargill, Nelson, Palmerston North, South Canterbury and Gisborne, in that order.

We are followed by Ashburton, Wairarapa, Whangarei, Hastings, Gore, Wanganui, Rotorua, Waikato, Franklyn, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Western Suburbs, Napier and many other large centres. We feel justly proud of our position on the N.Z.R.S.A. membership ladder. Many factors contribute to this state. It would be imprudent to endeavour to list these factors—firstly lest some be omitted and secondly there is the danger of listing them out of order of merit. It could be said, however, that your successive Executive Committees since W.W.2 went into the task of rehabilitation—boots and all. They tackled rehabilitation as a whole and they worked tirelessly for the individual. Pensions and welfare matters received their time and study. Many of our members are today reaping the benefit of the knowledge gained by our Committeemen and the practical application of that knowledge. As a matter of interest it can be said that there are about 140 men drawing war veterans' allowances in Marlborough—over 90 per cent. of whom are financial and grateful members of the Association.

Every effort has been made to create and retain the interest of returned men in their Association. Clubhouses are established with many of our branches and in Blenheim the charter club followed such activities as the establishing of a bowling green, billiard room, miniature rifle club, indoor bowling club, darts, etc.

Loophole is another medium for retaining the interest of members. We would like to see more articles, letters and enquiries coming in from individuals for this magazine.

Branch Committees and their Secretaries have played a most important part in bringing about the healthy membership position of the Association. It was hoped that a Branch Secretaries' conference would be held in Blenheim about this time; but now definite plans are afoot for a conference to be held at Nelson on 13th November under the Chairmanship of Mr M. A. Carson, Chief Administrative Officer of N.Z.R.S.A. It is highly desirable that all Branch Secretaries will make a point of being present. The conference will embrace all Association and Branch Secretaries in the Seddon Shield District. Mr L. D. Waters of Blenheim is the District Vice-President and the organisation of this Conference is in his capable hands. Further information on this subject will be sent by letter to Branches.

Our healthy membership is very largely due to the enthusiastic efforts of our sub-Branch Secretaries.

With seven months of the present financial year ahead of us, we have ample time to devote to our remaining unfinancial members to bring them up to date with their obligations to the Association before the 31st. March. With concentrated effort by all and sundry it is confidently expected that the Association will, for the third year in succession, again show an increase in membership.

Don't let us fail!

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#### **"ESCAPE":**

Richard Pape, author of "Boldness be my Friend", was in New Zealand in June when an invitation was extended to him to visit Bleunheim. It was hoped that Mr Pape may have found time to visit the Clubhouse and perhaps address our members. However, Mr Pape was unable to fit in a trip across the Strait at that time. He left N.Z. early in July for England and according to a letter received by Harry Duckworth, Mr Pape says that he will be returning to New Zealand in November or December when perhaps he may have the opportunity then to call and meet "all you good people."

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## **MAKE USE OF YOUR CHARTER CLUB**

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#### **"OH STAR OF EVE"**

Does an ex-member of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion (Main Body) recollect the following incident during a night route march in the Egyptian Desert in January, 1915?

Orders were that the march was to be done in complete silence as the officers were navigating by a "Star."

After about two hours steady plodding the silence was disturbed by a perfect imitation of the voice of two well-known Christchurch news-vendors, the calls being, "Star 5 O'Clock" and "Evening News." Perpetrators never discovered.

At dawn a beautiful well-flattened circle, large enough to run the N.Z. Trotting Cup on.

Result—no more "Star Navigation."

6/974.

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#### **EXEMPTION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Some totally disabled ex-servicemen of the 1914-18 war are still ignorant of the fact that they are exempt from Social Security contributions on income other than salary or wages. They are also entitled to a refund of charges paid in error.

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#### **EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL:**

Dominion Headquarters is able to accept a few subscribers to the above attractive monthly publication—the official journal of the British Empire Service League. The subscription is 9/- per annum, plus postage.

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## ● "Their Name Liveth"

### Publication of Book for Imperial War Graves Commission:

The following circular letter has been received by Headquarters N.Z.R.S.A. from the British Empire Service League, who state that it will be grateful if the following information is given the widest publicity throughout all Associations.

"Members will be interested in the publication by Messrs. Methuen for the Imperial War Graves Commission of a book entitled 'Their Name Liveth' words which are quoted from the inscription on the Stone of Remembrance in many of the largest War Cemeteries. In this book there have been assembled 65 fine photographs of war cemeteries and memorials constructed by the Imperial War Graves Commission in Italy and Sicily, France, England and Scotland, Norway, The Netherlands and Belgium.

"A message to relatives from Her Majesty the Queen is reproduced in the book.

"The book, which is introduced by a Foreword by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, K.G., President of the Commission contains a short description of the work of the Commission and an Essay by Edmund Blunden, C.B.E., M.C. The pictures are followed by historical and descriptive notes, as well as an outline of the campaigns and incidents of war which led to the formation of the cemeteries, or the building of the memorials.

"The volume is the first of a number of books the Commission hope to publish, with pictures of our war cemeteries in many parts of the world. It is a book that should be in every branch library and it is hoped that local secretaries and many individual members will buy copies.

"The volume is handsomely bound in buckram, stamped in real gold, and is available at the moderate price of 15/- (U.K.). Copies may be obtained from any bookseller or direct from the Commission, in which case orders should be addressed to Imperial War Graves Commission, Finance Dept. (P.V.), Wooburn House, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks., Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable to the Imperial War Graves Commission and should include 1/2d per copy to cover postage."

(NOTE: This book may be obtained through booksellers in N.Z. at a cost of 18/9d or ordered through them from the N.Z. distributors. Alternatively, the War Graves Division, Dept. of Internal Affairs, Wellington, will accept order forms on the basis of 18/- plus postage 1/-, surface mail, or 2/6 air mail).

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### EAST COAST SUB-BRANCH:

At the Annual General Meeting of the East Coast Sub-Branch the following officers were elected:—

Chairman, Mr H. H. Lawrence; vice-chairman, Mr S. Williams; committee, Messrs H. J. Stace, J. R. Moore, J. A. Davis, R. F. Parker and R. A. Reiher; representative on East Coast Welfare Committee, Mr J. A. Davis; secretary-treasurer, Mr F. W. Parker.

The following business was dealt with:—

It was decided to become a life member of Heritage and also to retain active membership.

The Executive of the Marlborough R.S.A. is to be invited to play a friendly cricket match for the Archibald Trophy on the 1st Sunday in February, 1955.

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## ● How Tall?

We stand corrected if these incidents are not true.

Some time ago Lance Waters brought home a horse and when asked by his daughter Pat what he was going to do with it he said he intended racing it. Looking at her dad and then at the horse Pat replied, "I think you'll beat it, Dad."

Some of the miniature rifle club boys have wondered why Bruce Hadfield's scores have deteriorated of late. It has now been learnt that someone removed the block of concrete half way down the range on which Bruce depended for a ricochet.

John Burt is a real mechanical genius. He changed gears in his baby Austin the other night and didn't get his face slapped.

Mary made a "Blue" when filling in a membership card for an ex-guardsman recently. She asked him if he had been Fire, Mud, Railway or Black Guard.

Sam Brown says that footprints in the sands of time are not made by sitting down.

Wally Inder was saying the other day that he could have retired nicely in his old age had he been able to sell his experience for what it cost him.

Have you seen Les Shannon looking for the right key of the storeroom:

His key chain holds two dozen keys  
He uses five in all;  
The rest were made to fit the locks of doors he can't recall.

Will Wally Perkins take a Tip, please.

Direction signs all have a way of showing  
Whenever we are travelling by car  
The way we came and also where we're going;  
They never seem to tell us where we are.

President Dick Scott, Secretary of the newly-formed Victoria League's Bridge Club should note:—

Bridge players always  
Imploringly blubber,  
Tho' it's midnight and past  
"Let's play one more rubber."  
Just one more rubber  
That's all, beg the wretches;  
But hand after hand  
How that rubber stretches.

Someone asked Merv Wisheart if he had a girl in every port when serving in the Navy. "No," said Merv, "I've never been in Hamburg."

Some couples wouldn't get divorced for such trivial reasons if they hadn't got married for such trivial reasons.

Recent advertisement in the local paper: FOR SALE—V8 Car, recently rebored and well shot. (Traffic Officers please note, it is not always the driver.)

Two recent song hits:—

"When the sheets seem short the bed seems long."

"How to change your combinations without getting into a flap."

Les Watson strolled into the billiard room the other afternoon looking very glum. He had just realised that his wife had said as he left for school that there was nothing she liked better than to kiss him good-bye.

We see by the local sports notes that Bernie's golf has greatly improved—owing to practice, we presume.

He makes his round of golf and then

Decides his score's too big.

So off he heads to the 19th hole

And practices his swig.

Ed. Hillary thought that a little honey was good for him—until his wife found out.

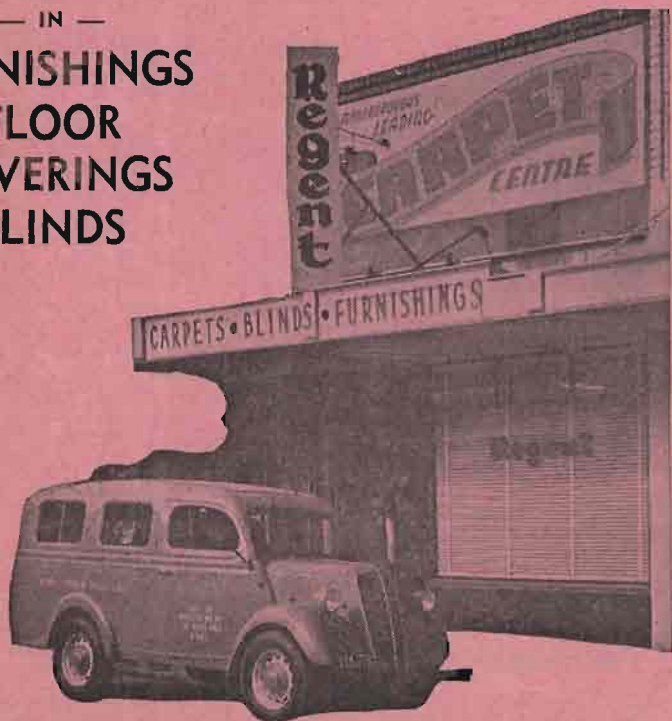
At a recent band concert, Hugh Duncan was heard to ask his wife what was the book the man with the stick kept looking at. When told it was the score, Hugh wanted to know who was winning.

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## ● No Holes

"Six-holer's" rhapsody on privvies in "Loophole's" last issue prompts me to tell a sad tale of an incident which occurred while we were in Syria. We took over a camp in fairly good order—nissen huts with concrete floors, and latrines walled with corrugated iron. These edifices were divided down the middle by a wall, one side accommodating about a dozen O.R.'s and the other side a similar number of Officers. However all Ranks were served by the same pit, or my story would not be worth telling. We had a cheerful, casual Medical Orderly attached to our Company, who was as awkward in everything he did as the proverbial cow with a shovel. The M.O., who should have known better than to detail such a bloke for such a job, decided that the most popular of the latrines could do with a little sanitation, and gave orders for "Fatty" to pour some petrol in and drop a match after it. Willing as ever "Fatty" procured the petrol (just how much never really came to light) entered the O.R.'s side, which was vacant, carried out orders in a smart and soldierly fashion, and dropped in a match on what must have been a fairly large quantity of petrol. There was a terrific "whoosh" heard all over the Battalion area, lids were blown up off "man holes," and one poor officer who had been peacefully seated in the officer's compartment was flung to the floor on hands and knees, painfully but not seriously singed. I doubt very much if even "Six-holer's" affection for these very necessary gems of architecture could have survived had he been on the receiving end of the blast.—9738.

"Musta been sumthin' I et," as Dad said on recovering from the blast when Dave blew up the old conservatory at Snake Gully.

H.M.N.Z.T. Willochra carried many good men to W.W.I. but she was not exactly a floating palace. Eight men and their accoutrements could be stored in a single cabin, with some inconvenience. We were reminded of her later when we were loaded into horse trucks on the French railways—each truck labelled 6 chevals or 20 hommes. The Willochra did not boast porcelain baths or single compartment toilets and there was insufficient fresh water for the morning wash. We took aboard our own salt water soap and one wash a day was more than sufficient. We vividly recall the privvy arrangements, which consisted of a long trough athwart that round bottomed rolling monstrosity called a ship. The trough was always half full of salt water which carried waste material through the side of the ship as she rolled. Newsprint and wrapping paper etc. from parcels brought aboard was dumped into the trough and this could be relied upon to make two or three excursions across the ship before becoming waterlogged and in fit shape to spill overboard. Of course, if you were a smoker, it was easy to apply a lighted match to a bundle of paper, then rise and watch the expressions on the faces of those surprised and scorched men as the flaming papers "swooshed" from port to starboard of the rolling Willochra under the bared seats of a dozen or so indignant rail sitters. This unsportsmanlike game petered out as the paper supply did; but there was a fresh outburst of this horrible practice after leaving Albany with replenished stocks of newsprint and parcel wrappings.—"Six-Bar."

### *"If you know of a Better 'Ole . . ."*

Can't you boys jack up subject matter for "Loophole" a little more edifying than the foregoing? We're calling a "cease fire" on Privvies and their army equivalent—so let's have your stories on a little higher level—please.—Editor.

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**REGISTER BROS, Coal & Firewood Merchants,**  
GROVE ROAD, BLENHEIM.

## ● What Heritage Does

The aim of Heritage is to do three things. The first is to make available to the children of servicemen who have given their lives for their country, a service of advice and guidance such as would have been provided by their fathers. The second is to assist in all matters relating to the education, development and advancement in the life of the children. The third is to render such other services as may be found desirable in the interest of the children. These services are available in every case, both for girls and boys, until the need for them no longer exists.

Today there are over 2500 children on Heritage registers belonging to 1567 families. To them the services of Heritage have been extended. It is an arresting thought that these children, who could more than fill His Majesty's Theatre three times over, have been rendered fatherless and their mothers widowed, in order that we may live. The children are reaching the difficult years of adolescence and the widowed mother tends more and more to seek advice and help.

AND this is how it is done:—

First of all the Heritage branches maintain friendly contact with all their families. Birthday and Christmas gifts are sent until the child reaches maturity. Visits are paid regularly to families, each branch using its own method of finding out what both the children and their mother require.

The work is done also with the minimum of publicity, although Heritage recognises that it is due to its supporters that some public account should be given from time to time of what is being done. Working in the way it does Heritage has the full support of the Returned Services' Association.

The service of advice and guidance is being maintained. This has proved most valuable. Heritage helps the mother also, with the personal problems that arise in a family. It is the greatest relief for a widow with growing children to be able to turn to the members of a Heritage branch for advice and help. Here is an extract from a recent letter from a widow, somewhere in the North Island, who had been advised and helped financially more than once, but in particular with the education of a difficult child:—

"It is with a sense of deep security and confidence that I turn to Heritage when in need of advice and help—like sending out an S.O.S. call and knowing it will be answered—and my appreciation and gratitude can't really be measured or expressed. I am just truly thankful."

Heritage watches the physical health of the children. Prompt medical and dental treatment is made available. Professional men, working at the request of Heritage frequently waive or reduce their fees. The promptness

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## DIGGERS!

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Gardens Tools of every description. Plants, Bulbs, Seeds, etc.

of the treatment which Heritage can arrange from private professional men is in itself, a substantial service. Special cases have been helped to obtain special treatment. Heritage also arranges holidays for the children, sometimes for the purpose of giving the mother a much-needed rest.

Heritage pays close attention to the education of the children. It helps the mother financially to see that each child gets as full an education as possible to fit it to take a worthy place in society.

Heritage has also given close attention to the settlement of a child in life, and for this purpose has established close liaison with the Rehabilitation Department. A member of the Rehabilitation Board is a member of the Dominion executive of Heritage and there is close co-operation in the districts. In this way the nature and extent of the assistance that can be provided by the Rehabilitation Department is immediately known to Heritage. In this way also the type of employment best suited to the aptitudes of a young man or young woman can be discussed with him or her with the mother; and then, with the aid of Heritage the type of employment chosen can usually be readily obtained. This is the climax of the work of Heritage—to settle each child of a deceased serviceman, with character trained and with faculties fully developed, in the job in life best suited to his or her capacities.

Heritage makes no special appeals for money—Shop Days, Street Days or the like—but it gets many donations and is always grateful for this assistance. The best way to help is to become a subscribing member and Heritage tenders a sincere welcome to any helper.

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#### **A RELIABLE PENSION**

A Drill Sergeant was sent a large squad of rejects. Not fit for front line, not fit for behind the line on salvage work, not fit for a genuine pension. That was the report the Sergeant received. He knew of a treacherous stretch of easy digging. Having lined them along they started trenching. After sinking down 12ft the shovellers shouted up, "This trench might fall-in and bury the lot of us." "That's right," replied Serg., "keep on digging."—Ex 6/1754 Hillersden.

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#### **REHABILITATION OVERDONE:**

A rehabilitation job that worked too well has been reported from Chicago. Clifford Blount, a forty-nine year-old accountant, lost both forearms as the result of an accident. With the aid of a steel hook attached to the stump of his right arm he continued to work at his profession until arrested. The charge: forging a client's name to a cheque for 50 dollars.

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## **PICTURE FRAMING**

— BY —

# **F. Hepburn**

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## ● Outdoor Bowls

Because no bowls have been played during the past six months a large number of bowlers think there is nothing being done or to be done on or around the bowling green. This is far from being the case and it would probably be quite true to say that the kind of bowling enjoyed in the season is entirely the result of what work was done or not done during the off season. Excellent work has been done the last four months—thousands of plugs of Cochela have been plugged into the green. A good response to the call for helpers to the working bee for topdressing was received with 20 members turning up and a great deal of work being done both in top dressing the green and cleaning up the plugs taken from the green to make room for the Cochela plugs. A start was also made to dig the flower beds and cut the grass round the green. Eight members turned out to go to Grassmere for the plugs including Register's truck.

The green has been kept well cut, manured and treated with a mixture to kill worms; the banks and ditches have been kept tidy and a lot of work put into the flower beds. The hedge trees which died out last year were replaced with new ones by a member at his own expense.

A pipe line has been installed to allow the pump to be primed and so save the time of our volunteer workers when watering the green. The M.R.S.A. helped with finance for the piping and the labour was done by a working bee. One member took as his chore, cutting the hedge while others sieved the soil for the spring top-dressing. We are very lucky having such loyal, enthusiastic members. Now that growth is starting to come away a lot remains to be done and I would ask each and every member to lend a hand. "There is something you can do to help," so when next you see a working bee called, come and lend a hand and ask the Green Supervisor Wally Inder if you can give him a hand, or Wally Perkins if there is anything you can do to help him get the garden going.

I would like to invite financial members of the Association to come forward and join the club as active playing members. Bowls is one game which is played by young and old—by both fit and the unfit.

Cheerio chaps, it won't be long before we will be rolling them up.

H. DUCKWORTH,  
President M.R.S.A. Bowling Club.

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### 3rd DIVISION (PACIFIC) UNOFFICIAL HISTORIES

Dominion Headquarters still has for sale a quantity of 3rd Division Unofficial Histories—price per copy 2/6, plus postage 6d. The stock consists of the following:—Pacific Pioneers (Engineers); Stepping Stones to the Solomons (29th Battalion); the 35th Battalion; The Story of the 34th; Pacific Service (A.S.C.); Pacific Kiwis (30th Battalion) and The Gunners.

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THE DULUX SHOP

## ● The British Legion

When visiting the Old Country in 1951 with my old cobbler, Fred Edwards, I made a point of trying to find out just how the British Legion (our counterpart in England) was functioning and, surprisingly enough, I found that it is a very active organisation, working on very similar lines to our own Association. They have branches in every town in England and most of the branches have also a very good clubhouse with the usual activities, billiards, darts, and of course, a good bar. Fred and I spent quite a pleasant little evening when we visited a club at Chingford which is in North London and not far from Epping Forest. We had a go at darts and billiards but most of the time we were bending the elbow, guzzling the good old English ale. Then before leaving for our tour of Belgium and France we contacted the British Legion headquarters in Pall Mall as Fred wanted some information on how to find the cemetery near Albert, in France, where his brother is buried and also I wanted to know how to find the cemetery at Charleroi, Belgium, where Wally Inder's son is buried. We were given every possible assistance and instructions where to contact their representatives on the continent and on arrival in Brussels we got into touch with their headquarters and were very hospitably received by a Squadron Leader Wilson and his secretary. Every assistance was given us, we were even supplied with appropriate wreaths to place on the graves. The following morning we left by electric train for Charleroi, a rather dismal coal-mining town, where the British Legion representative instructed us how to get to the cemetery where Wally's boy is buried. Had to take a tram and experienced some difficulty in trying to explain to the conductor where we had to get off. Eventually arrived at this very fine civilian cemetery; 41 R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. airmen are buried there, Wally's boy being the only New Zealander. The graves are in one long plot with a wide garden along the whole length, planted with a profusion of flowers. Just across from where these airmen of World War II are buried are the graves of over 300 who fell in the 1914-18 War, all properly cared for by a permanent caretaker, an old 1914-18 veteran. The next day we left for Albert in France to visit the cemetery where Fred's brother is buried but as I must not take up too much space I will leave the account of our experiences for a later issue.—Fred Harrison.

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## MAKE USE OF YOUR CHARTER CLUB

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### MEDALS—Gongs to Some:

We have made several appeals to our members to uplift their medals and though a great number have now received them, we know that there are still numbers who have not yet presented their claims.

It may not be generally known what qualifications are necessary for the various awards and these are set out in an information pamphlet which may be perused at the Association's office. In all, fourteen medals (apart from awards for meritorious service) were awarded for service in N.Z. and abroad.

We again appeal to those who have not done so, to send in their claims for their medals.

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It is better to travel hopefully than just to arrive.—R. L. Stevenson.

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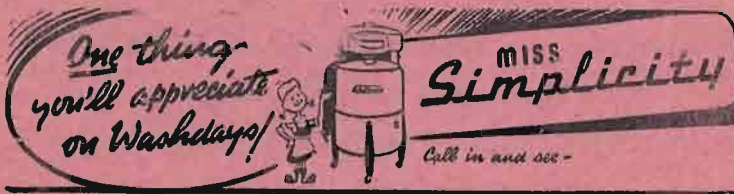
(DON HALE, Proprietor)

## THE DODO:

I had wandered along to the Club and there was Jim. I waited until he had enjoyed a whiskey, then I said, "Jim have you ever heard about a bird called the "Dodo" that lost its wings because it was too darned tired to use them." "Oh yes," said Jim, "read about it at school." I was surprised because I did not think Jim had ever gone to school even though I know he is a pretty smart accountant. "Well," I said getting into my stride, "I believe it is only a matter of a generation or so before we will be like that bird. You know, get in the car to post a letter round the corner, or to pick the bread up across the street, we will soon be losing our legs. Mind you," I said, "I believe we might grow an extra hand so we can switch off, switch on and pull a lever at the same time. Then I think we will also grow a sort of extra pad on our seats because it will all be sitting down in the future. By the way, I saw an ad in the paper the other day, FOR SALE.—Children's Bum Boots. I reckon those people are thinking the same as us."

Jim gulped down his second whiskey and as I started for home said, "Give us a lift although I only live just across the road, the car's in doek."

—Kerbstone Junior.



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## ● **Courage in the Long Range Desert Group**

Below is an extract from "Prelude to Battle" which covers the engagement in which a well known Picton and Sounds man, Corporal Rex Beech, was killed. This portion also covers Trooper Moore's remarkable trek of 210 miles in ten days.

After linking up with the Free French in Chad, the L.R.D.G. came under the command of Colonel Leclerc, commander of the Free French forces in Chad province (January 28th, 1941) with whom they were to co-operate for his attack on Kufra. The Free French force had to make a 1000 mile journey to Kufra across a pathless, waterless wilderness, in order to fight the Italians.

Quote:—Meanwhile Colonel Bagnold, commanding officer of the L.R.D.G., left Cairo by air and arrived on 14th January at Fort Lamy, a sprawl of mushroom-like mud and thatch huts, in the middle of which there are a few streets tunnelled through tropical foliage where 500 white men live and work. From here Colonel Bagnold was flown to Xouar, in the eastern end of the 10,000 foot Tibesti mountains. He spent the night there with Major Clayton and the two patrols, before he returned to Fort Lamy with another officer and the guard who had been wounded in the leg at Murzuk.

The Free French column of some 100 vehicles started to move from Faya towards Kufra on 21st January. They suffered some delays owing to mechanical defects, lack of the proper gear for getting a bogged truck out of soft sand and lack of experience in this specialised type of transport problem. Major Clayton's patrol, acting as an advance party for the Free French, left Ounianga on 29th January, and reached Sarra well the following day. The well had been filled in by the Italians. On 31st January they reached Bishara, and here again they found the well filled in by the enemy.

While they were at Bishara the patrol was sighted by an Italian plane. The patrol proceeded another fifteen or sixteen miles to Gebel Sherif, a small wadi where they took cover in the boulders. They had been there only ten minutes, however, when aircraft reappeared, having followed their tracks and circled over their position, thus indicating to an enemy armoured patrol where the British patrol was concealed. The Italians attacked from the rear, entering the wadi from the southern end. Probably a standing Auto-Saharan patrol, the attacking force consisted of seven vehicles, one of which was a lorry carrying a gun that was of about 65 mm calibre. Enemy fire from high-explosive and machine-gun bullets, including incendiary bullets, was heavy and accurate, and three trucks were destroyed by gunfire. One New Zealander, Corporal F. R. Beech, and two of the Italian prisoners were killed. The machine guns on Trooper R. J. Moore's truck, one of those hit, went into action while the remaining seven trucks escaped out of the northern end of the wadi. Moore, a New Zealander, and three guardsmen made their escape into the boulders up one side of the wadi.

The patrol circled about and was preparing to make a counter-attack from the south when they were attacked by three Italian planes with bombs and machine gun fire. The patrol was then ordered to a pre-arranged rendezvous farther south, and during the retirement Major Clayton's truck was damaged, presumably by further air action. Major Clayton and two New Zealanders were taken prisoners of war by the Italians. The two surviving Italian prisoners were recaptured. The rest of the trucks continued southwards, and after joining Captain Crichton-Stuart's patrol, which had come north to meet them, continued to a rendezvous with Colonel Leclerc near Tekro.

While this was happening, Trooper Moore and the three guardsmen remained hidden in the hills to which they had dashed for shelter from

their blazing trucks. Moore was shot through the foot and one of his companions was wounded in the throat. Much to their amazement, the Italians made no attempt to find and capture them, and when they returned to the scene of the ambush, the two Italian prisoners lay where they had been killed by their own countrymen. One of them was the postman who had been captured at Murzuk. Everything in the trucks had been charred by fire, so they could find no food and only one two-gallon tin threequarters full of water. The four men hurried away as quickly as possible, as they feared the return of the enemy. They headed south along the tracks left by their own patrol.

Moore's foot troubled him for the first two days as he was unable to bandage it, except with a handkerchief. He and his companions cast off their sandshoes, as they were only a nuisance in the loose, fine sand. Each man was permitted a pint of water a day, but Moore was the only one who sucked a pebble to keep his mouth moist.

It was comparatively easy going for them over miles and miles of nothing but featureless sand. On the third day they came to a place where their patrol had stopped for a meal, and which Moore estimated to be nearly 100 miles from where they had been ambushed. On the fifth day, however, Tighe, an Englishman, could no longer keep up with the others but continued to make his way alone until he reached Sarra well on the seventh day. The other three reached Sarra on the sixth day in a raging sand storm and took shelter in some deserted native huts.

On the eighth day another guardsman, Easton, collapsed, but Moore and the third guardsman, Winchester, continued their amazing trek. They were seen by two French planes, and a canvas bag containing food and a bottle of water was dropped. To their acute disappointment, they could not find the food, and the cork came out of the water-bottle, leaving only one mouthful for each of them. But in their own bottles they had still saved a little water. The French planes were unable to land as the ground was strewn with stones, so they flew to Tekro to send out a rescue party. Unluckily this party took the wrong route, heading three or four miles to the west of Moore and Winchester.

On the ninth day Winchester became too weak to continue. Moore waited until the following morning to give his companion time to recover a little strength. Next morning the Englishman staggered about twenty yards and dropped, utterly exhausted. Only one mouthful of water remained, Moore gave Winchester a sip, and set off alone. He rinsed his mouth occasionally and returned the precious mouthful of water to the bottle. Still making steady progress and having covered ten miles on the tenth day, Moore was overtaken by the Free French force returning from the direction of Kufra. They had picked up the three guardsmen, but Easton, who had kept going for eight days, died that night despite all the efforts of a French doctor to save him. Without food or boots, Moore had walked 210 miles in ten days.

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## ● A Fee? No!

Our special correspondent in Picton has the temerity to ask for payment for an article sent in for publication in "Loophole." He admits that "Review" just didn't bother to advise him the article was worthless and he now threatens to send it on to some women's journal if we fail to publish it.

But at least we are sports, 9738, and on the understanding that you make a one guinea donation to your Branch Welfare Funds, we print below your story at the peril of losing a cushy job as Editor of "Loophole."

Well here it is:—

### THE GUARDSMAN WHO DROPPED IT

Andy Beck, a dour Scots-Guardsman and P.O.W. with me, never lost an opportunity to cause as much irritation and trouble as possible where the Germans were concerned. Working in a large Dresden factory which made concrete parts for prefab. houses, Andy was collared by a German electrician to accompany him up to the cab of one of the two travelling electric cranes which spanned the factory about thirty feet above floor level. This particular one had broken down, and in a factory where a considerable amount of lifting and carrying was necessary its quick repair was important.

The electrician dived into the innards, removed a chunky cog-wheel about twelve inches in diameter and handed it to Andy, saying, poor fool, "Hold this—don't drop it." Andy looked down, the germ of an idea having been born with those words, and immediately below was a huge pile of sand beside one of the mixers—so he dropped it, fair in the middle of the heap.

The resultant storm nearly shrivelled Andy where he stood. Everyone—electrician, foreman, manager, feldwebel of the guard—ranted and shrieked but he finally survived the storm by describing with some indignation how he hated heights anyway, and how he'd lost his balance and it was a case of the wheel or himself. The interviewing party left him in no doubt that as far as the Greater Reich was concerned he'd made a bad choice, and called up a gang of us with shovels to unearth the vital part. It really was quite a job in that fine, shifting sand, but need not have been quite as difficult as we made it—each time anyone felt or caught a glimpse of the wheel it was promptly reinterred with great celerity and cheerfulness until finally we exhumed it permanently with glad cries of discovery, two days after its initial plunge.

Counting time in which the crane was out of action and work lost in the unproductive job of recovery, quite a bit of production went down the drain there, which shows that sabotage was not always a spectacular cloak-and-dagger affair of the time-bomb-in-a-power-house variety.

—By 9738.

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### JOHNSON V. JOHNSON:

I have been asked to write a short account of the J. to J. land case, mainly for the benefit of Awatere members.

I would rather at some time suitable to Awatere Branch go out to a meeting and explain the case to them.—L. D. Waters, D.V.P.

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**J. H. FLETCHER for CHESTERFIELD SUITES**

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## ● To Settle A Bet

The V.C. is worn before all other decorations, on the left breast, and consists in a cross-pattee of bronze, 1½ inches in diameter, with the Royal Crown surmounted by a lion in the centre, and beneath there is the inscription "For Valour." From the institution of the decoration in January 1856 until March 1942 Victoria Crosses were, by Queen Victoria's decree, struck from the metal of guns captured by the British at Sebastopol during the Crimean War; the supply of Sebastopol metal having run out the crosses are now made from gunmetal supplied by the Royal Mint. In all three fighting Services, holders of the V.C. below commissioned rank (or below warrant rank in the Royal Navy) receive an annuity of £10 a year concurrently with the award, plus an addition of 6d a day (£9/2/- a year) to the recipient's pension. In the case of a posthumous award, £50 is credited to the estate of a recipient, or the balance of £50 if that amount has not been paid during his lifetime; an additional annuity of £5 is paid for each bar, such bar being added for additional acts of bravery which would have entitled the recipient to the Victoria Cross if he or she had not already received it. In the event of an annuitant being unable to obtain a livelihood on leaving the Service, the amount of the annuity may be increased to £75. In 1911, the right to receive the Cross was extended to Indian soldiers, and in 1920 a Royal Warrant extended the right to Matrons, Sisters and Nurses, and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and to Civilians of either sex regularly or temporarily under the orders, direction or supervision of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Crown.

### **New Zealand Recipients of the Victoria Cross Surviving in 1953 :**

ANDREW, Lt. Col. L. W., D.S.O., 1917.  
CRICHTON, Pte., J., 1918.  
FRICKLETON, Captain, S., 1917.  
HINTON, Sgt. J. D., 1941.  
JUDSON, Capt. R. S., D.C.M., M.M., 1918.  
TRENT, Squadron Leader L. H., D.F.C., 1943.  
BASSETT, Lieut. C. R. G., 1915.  
ELLIOTT, Lieut. K., 1942.  
GRANT, Lieut. J. G., 1918.  
HULME, Sgt. A. C., 1941.  
LAURENT, Sgt. H. J., 1918.  
UPHAM, Capt. C. H. (and Bar, 1942), 1941.

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### **ANZAC DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA:**

Applications from members will be received up to 27th October for inclusion in the N.Z.R.S.A. Official Party to visit Australia in April next. Application must be made on a special form which may be obtained from the Association's offices in Blenheim. The following information is required from applicants: (1) Full name in block letters; (2) Age; (3) Regimental number and unit; (4) Occupation; (5) Present address, in full (and advice of any change following date of application); (6) Name of local Association and details of R.S.A. service i.e. executive or other service (in selecting members Dominion Headquarters will pay special attention to the nature of the service rendered to the R.S.A.); (7a) First choice of centre it is desired to visit; (7b) Second choice of centre; (7c) Whether definitely prepared to visit any other centre (which under certain circumstances may be necessary); (8) Agreement to remain with section to which application may be allocated for full period of official entertainment; (9) Agreement to send to Dominion Headquarters on demand either the full amount

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required to cover transport to and from Australia and funds required for personal use in Australia or a bank receipt covering lodgment to the credit of N.Z.R.S.A. No. 1 Account at the Bank of New Zealand, Lambton Quay, Wellington.

The party will leave Auckland in the Monowai on April 12, arriving in Sydney on April 16. The party will leave Sydney on return (in the Monowai) on or about May 9, arriving in Wellington on or about May 13.

**DO NOT APPLY UNLESS YOU ARE QUITE CERTAIN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP. THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT AS DIFFICULTIES MAY OCCUR IN ARRANGING REPLACEMENTS AT SHORT NOTICE.**

Members of the M.R.S.A. must apply through their Branch Secretary who may obtain an application form from the Association Secretary. The completed form will then be sent to the Secretary in Blenheim and not direct to N.Z.R.S.A.

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#### **MORE REMINISCENCES:**

This little incident will long be remembered by those taking part in it. It was in the final push in 1918 when the Hun was on the run and we were under the command of a most unpopular and windy Tommy Colonel. Just before dark after a hard day's march we arrived at an abandoned German Headquarters, made with the usual Hun thoroughness, deep dug-outs with sleeping galleries running off the main corridor. Everybody rushed in to secure a good possie, but the old man ordered everybody out until an Engineer Officer could be found to examine the whole place and pronounce it safe. Not far away was an abandoned railway siding with the usual assortment of equipment laying about, including some boxes of grenades, so the boys set up some empty boxes and petrol tins and had a little bomb throwing competition just to hurry the Engineer Officer along and to put the wind up the old man. They threw a few grenades on top of the dug-out and near the entrance.

By the time we had had a feed and the place was declared O.K. it was pretty dark and we were glad to turn in. I found a very comfortable corner and was soon in the land of nod. I don't know how long I had been asleep when I was rudely shaken and told to get out as quickly as possible, as a clock-work mine had been discovered and was expected to go off at any time. By the time we had got our gear together and got to the main corridor there was considerable confusion, and when word came along that it was the Colonel who had discovered the mine a lot of uncomplimentary remarks were passed and a few choice epitaphs hurled at him in the dark. I had not even reached the surface when word was passed along to return to our places. As I passed one of the galleries there was much laughing and joking among the officers. It turned out that one of them had taken his watch off when he turned in and placed it on an empty petrol tin, which amplified its ticking and it was this that the Colonel had heard, but as soon as it was picked up the noise had stopped. This had been discovered when the watch was replaced on the tin.

About daylight some of the boys on picket rolled a few empty tins down the entrance, this was too much for the Colonel, so he roused the M.O. and got himself evacuated with War Neurosis. He was lucky enough to get a ride in the ambulance and was in Blighty in the evening.

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Have you a complaint? "I complained because I had no shoes; until I met a man who had no feet."

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