



Loophole

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE
MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES' ASSN.

Vol. 2 No. 4 SEPT., 1955

★ ★ ★ Presidential ★ ★ ★

The Annual Dominion Conference was held in Wellington from the 14th to the 16th of June last, and your Association was represented by Lance Waters (District Vice-President), Jim Walsh, Wally Perkins, Les Smith and myself. As compared with previous years, there were fewer remits submitted to the Conference, indicating that with the elapse of ten years since the end of World War II, there are fewer really important problems to be dealt with.

As the Annual Report of the N.Z.R.S.A. stated, some of the problems associated with Rehabilitation and Pensions will be with us always, but basic principles have now been established. Some ex-servicemen have yet to be settled on farms or in their own homes, but the numbers remaining are known and the resources required for the practical side of their rehabilitation can be estimated.

The impression carried away from the Conference by most delegates, was that our main future activities will be welfare and social work. After ten years, rehabilitation, whether self promoted or achieved with outside assistance, is nearing completion, and ex-servicemen will have more time to take an increasing interest in Association activities generally.

I feel more sure now that this Association has decided rightly to endeavour to provide better facilities in the form of new administrative and clubhouse premises to cater for such increasing interest.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank all those members, and civilians, who have responded so promptly to the proposal. Such response is even more gratifying, when it is realised it has come from many who are not able for a variety of reasons to make use of our present clubhouse facilities.

Our Building Fund is growing, but the practical support of all members is needed to enable the Association to achieve its objectives.

J. A. BELL, President.

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■ Membership

THE LAST ROLL CALL

Since our March issue of Loophole the following returned men have answered the Last Roll Call. Our sympathy is extended to those who are left behind. To them we say, "If you have a problem, or if you require some advice or assistance, please do not hesitate to interview the Association Secretary."

201258 A. J. Kerry; N.621074 K. J. Robson; 2/441 W. E. Capper; 15600 E. A. Page; 6/2325 F. Williams; N.032186 S. H. Southgate; 2/1937 J. H. Paterson; 32846 J. E. Caldwell; 2/942 S.A.2519 E. N. Snook; 21748 R. P. Synnott; 12740 L. J. Sullivan.

MEMBERSHIP

With nearly five months of the present financial year behind us, 1444 members have paid their subscriptions. This is a few more than we had at the same time last year and means that there are roughly 600 returned men in our midst who have not yet obtained their 1955 red date attachments. For the past three years we have shown an increase of roughly 100 financial members over the previous year. Help us now to again show an increase of 100 on last year's total of 1768. Following are details of Sub-Branch membership as at 18/7/55:—

S.A. Veterans	.....	.....	.....	38
Life Members	.....	.....	.....	20
Blenheim	.....	.....	.....	911
Picton	.....	.....	.....	149
Kaikoura	.....	.....	.....	120
Awatere	.....	.....	.....	55
Renwicktown	.....	.....	.....	39
Havelock	.....	.....	.....	33
Rai Valley	.....	.....	.....	27
Sounds	.....	.....	.....	21
Flaxbourne	.....	.....	.....	19
East Coast	.....	.....	.....	12

TOTAL 1444

Get your 1955 red date attachment now

NEW MEMBERS

The following returned men have joined the Association during the past six months. A hearty welcome is extended to them and they are cordially invited to take their full part in any or all of our many and varied activities.

They are: 1013420 W. L. Brown; 65594 H. Kerr; R.N.Z. Navy, A. G. Penny; 634379 G. H. Young; 2/1210 W. P. Traill; J. White; 1481453 N. Fox; 5/533 L. Hill; 527370 W. M. Roche; 10660 L. O. Price; 125610 Rev. G. A. Fryer; 4313029 R. Nuku Nuku; 2306 G. N. G. Sutherland; 774066 D. K. Wallace; 14569365 J. F. Hirst; 415751 T. D. De Renzy; 33793 P. H. Woodgate; Navy 503689 F. Rankin; 575119 J. M. Young; 412098 D. B. Patterson; 483337 W. M. Groombridge; 39365 D. J. Caughley; FX 76720 A. Cowley; 45675 A. E. Burnett; 428917 L. G. Sinclair; 206308 B. A. Foster; 79938 J. N. L. Mawson; NZ 11431 D. E. McKenzie; 7/1128 G. Purches.

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A PLEA FOR TEN PARND.

Our Ed 'e carries round a board, no notice on its face,
Just gloom, a look of sad despair, ain't it a ripe disgrace?
To think that seventeen 'undred blokes, that makes the total roll,
'ave in their pockets ten parnd notes, what they intends to 'old.
Instead o' lashing out the cash, upon the instant when
The canvasser comes up an' sez, "I'll not be round again!"
"But I bin told ter come ter yer, and ask fer this 'ere hay,
A posh club'ouse ter build wiv it, ter make the "Loop" look gay.
Yer know the terms o' lending it; twas in last Loop'ole writ.
As 'ow no interest you'd get, not e'en a smell of it.
That needn't worry you a'tall, since every year they say,
A farsend parnds 'll be doled out, on some queer festive day.
Just fink of it, a new club'ouse, all made of concrete strong,
That will outlast the best of us, and look neat all along.
So when the last of us die out, the building will still stand,
(Unless we have another war, which isn't quite so grand).
So, when you pass the Club'ouse now, just stop and look at it,
Then 'and the Ed those ten parnd notes, you'll know you've done yar bit!
—G. H. YOUNG.

Paid your £10 to the Building Fund yet? Do it Now!

NOTES—HAVELOCK BRANCH, MARLBOROUGH R.S.A.

Report 1954-55: The Branch has not been particularly active during the year, although steady progress in finance and plans for a Clubroom have taken place. The next year should see the room an actual fact.

A successful Re-union was held on 3rd July, 1955. The increased charge making it an economic proposition, instead of the usual drain on funds.

The Ball held in conjunction with the Sounds Branch near the end of March proved a very pleasant evening, the ladies giving outstanding help with supper and decorations.

The Election of Officers at the Annual Meeting was:—

President: Mr. A. G. Eatwell.

Vice-President: Mr. W. J. Hathorne.

Secretary: Mr. L. N. Reader.

Committee: Messrs. M. O. Morrison, G. B. Gray, A. G. Warren, J. Wilson, W. H. Ritchie, N. H. Waterhouse and H. A. Crispin.

PICTON BRANCH NOTES—MARLBOROUGH R.S.A.

The Women's Section is filled with enthusiasm for the Branch's building alteration programme. Practical expression of this was given when the Section held a social afternoon and shop day at the Club, as a result of which the building fund will benefit to the extent of nearly £50.

Apparently Club Custodian's, like old soldiers, never die—they simply fade away. Charlie Chalker, for some time Club Custodian, had to give up the job over a year ago when he suffered two broken legs in a motor accident. Jack Annear took over the Club, but has had several bouts of illness this winter which have finally resulted in him having to give up the job. Charlie, still on two sticks, has come back to keep the Club going. To see him going about his duties on two sticks, is an object lesson in enthusiasm and determination.

Recently members of the Branch had the opportunity of seeing Mr. J. A. Breayley's films taken during his world tour. For an hour and a half members were entertained with a very interesting selection of films, those taken in the African Game Parks being particularly popular. Members were afforded the opportunity of seeing the films through the courtesy of the Women's Section, who had arranged with Mr. Breayley for the films to be shown at their July meeting.

KAIKOURA SUB-BRANCH NOTES

Sixty-two members of the local Branch of the R.S.A. formed a guard of honour when the new Kaikoura Community Centre Memorial Hall was opened by the Hon. J. K. McAlpine, Minister of Railways, on the 24th of June. The men fell in at the Club's Rooms and marched through the west end of the town to the Hall, under the direction of the marshal, Mr. T. F. B. Stronach.

At the opening ceremony, where a special area of seats was set aside for next-of-kin, Mr. McAlpine said that the people and especially the younger people, should never forget the purpose of the memorial and suggested that all men should combine to create a tradition of remembrance, by removing their hats as soon as they passed under the overhanging balcony, covering the main entrance. The Minister's suggestion is an excellent one and it is to be hoped it is followed because, while the hall is to be used for the people's enjoyment, it is, first and foremost, a memorial to those without whom there would have been very little enjoyment to-day.

The building itself is sited on the Esplanade, opposite the Garden of Memories, where stands the monument of the fallen of the 1st World War. The rolls of honour are on plaques flanking the main doors inside the foyer, so that nobody entering the hall can fail to be reminded of the names. The entire centre cost £32,000 and comprises a hall, supper room, kitchen, library, Plunket rooms, and showers. The main colour being deep coral, but inside this is toned by pastel blues and greens to give a most pleasing effect. At one end of the hall is a stage measuring 1,000 square feet and covering a greater area than some modern houses, while at the other end is a balcony, which gives a splendid view of the floor. Altogether the building would be a credit to any town larger than Kaikoura. It is a wonderful asset and is a fine tribute to those whose energy and public spiritedness made the collection of the money possible; but most of all it is a magnificent memorial to those of the services who did not return.

The Branch here is very pleased indeed with such a grand memorial to their fallen comrades, also the fact that it was built by Cyril Scott, painted by Cliff Perrin, the roll of honour done by Stan Cormack—all local returned boys. A verse by Stan Cormack under the roll of honour is worthy of mention:

In foreign lands on Seven Seas,
In flak filled skies they gave
Their priceless gift for heritage
The road of peace to have.
Their names are carved on walls of time,
Above all earthly cares,
No passing years can dim the light,
Of glory that is theirs.

Cormack.

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DESERT GROUND STAFFS' LAMENT

Flat on the crew room floor, freezing blinking cold,
Knights of the air they call us, but God, have we been sold!
You're out there on the flarepath, 'midst smoke and dirt and row
The wind it whistles round you, you can't keep warm no-how;
Blasted flares they flicker, and fill your eyes with grit,
Confounded things keep going out, and have to be relit.
Someone comes out to you, some cold tea in a jug,
Beneath the tea's an inch of drome, on top a half stewed bug.
And then the creepy crawlies get up a first class jam and jive,
What with them, soot, sand and parafin, it's grand to be alive.
One, Two, Three, then Four o'clock your eyes like lumps o' lead.
Darned good job Mum ain't near, to hear what's being said.
Back there in the crew room, you'll find a lively scene,
Half-dead ground crews on their knees, "1/c" the great "Has Been",
Then as sleeps gets you, and against the wall you lean,
"Master Mind" comes trotting in, his war cry on his lips,
"82 is coming in! Come on now! Off thy chips!!"
Someone gets a tyre flat, way out in the murk
And "Ertsatz Brain" comes sidling up, and mурners with a smurk,
"You'll have to go and change it! Here's a torch. Don't be long!"
Naturally you glow with joy, and hum a little song,
That begins, "I'll be glad," and ends "you —d you".
Never before blah, blah, blah, blah, by so many to so few.
I often idly wonder if Jerrie's doing just the same,
And still considers warring a great and glorious game;
Or whether they too have memories, of happy days gone by,
Of hollyhocks against the wall, of swallows in the sky.
A moss-covered lychgate, a meadow richly green,
Do they still prefer this to all that peace can mean?
Or do they, too, sigh wistfully Auf Baldiges Wiedersehen.

—With apologies to Phill Petch.

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Judge: "Where is your husband?"

Defendant: "I ain't got no husband. He has been dead on to 10 years."

Judge: "Are these all your children?"

Defendant: "Yes suh. They're mine."

Judge: "But I thought you said your husband was dead."

Defendant: "Yes, suh; he's dead, but I ain't."
* * * *

The dentist gazed at the vacant-looking young man in the chair, and spoke sadly to the anaesthetist.

"It's no use giving this chap gas," he said, "we shan't be able to tell when he's unconscious."

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A MEMBERS' RAMBLINGS ON A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

It is said that acquaintances, associations and comradeship made during times of service, out-live and out-last any other.

The correctness of this has ample proof and was brought home to me during my recent visit to Australia with the N.Z. Anzac Delegation. From the time we New Zealanders assembled in Auckland, until we disbanded five weeks later was so reminiscent of those days when we went overseas on a sterner mission, that the years rolled back and we lived in the spirit of those old associations and comradeship of those days long past.

On the way over on the "Monowai" we got to know each other. The party was drawn from all over New Zealand—three from Otago, half a dozen from Canterbury, one from Nelson, four or five Hawke's Bay, three Taranaki, Wellington, Auckland, and so on, making a party of forty in all. Mostly World War I men, but a fair representation of World War II, all good chaps out to represent their country and to carry the goodwill, comradeship and understanding of their R.S.A. to our Australian comrade members of the R.S.L. (Returned Service League).

A smooth and pleasant trip put us away to a good start, and as we slowly steamed up Sydney Harbour early in the morning, past the old fort and jail known as "Pinch Gut", nosing our way through the shipping, under the majestic Sydney Harbour Bridge and into Darling Harbour where we berthed, gave us a preview of things to come.

Quickly through the Customs (where we had nothing to declare) we were met by the N.S.W. State President of the R.S.L., Bill Yeo, C.B.E., together with his Executive and one, Jimmy Bombell, who was mother and father to us.

We were left in no doubt as to our welcome and to the great pleasure our trip was bringing to these old comrades who had come to meet us.

We piled into a big bus—men and baggage—and were soon at the R.S.L. Club in Elizabeth Street. We were tended a welcome luncheon and there received our "baptism" as only a dinkum Aussie could; it was soon obvious that their intentions could be summed up in the words of Anthony when he went to visit the beautiful Cleopatra, when he said, "I haven't come here to talk."

Next move was to see a League Football match played on the Sydney Cricket Ground. The appointments and stands are terrific, I saw a "Bar" that someone told me was a hundred yards long. At night we went out to a Sub-Branch function at "Lidcombe" where we were royally received and entertained. It was a mixed show, wives and girl friends were there with their partners. The variety was wide—you could dance, listen to items (and they were tops) give an item yourself, or "drink". We gave a Maori number over the loud speaker and had also the opportunity of introducing ourselves and to say a few words. Back to the Club where we were staying, about midnight or so, and that was our first day in Aussie. Next day, a Sunday, we were taken practically everywhere round Sydney. Guests of the Rose Bay Branch, we did the Harbour plus, we saw the famous "Bondi" Beach, Manly, Botany Bay; we went over and under the Harbour Bridge—what a magnificent monument to engineering; we saw historic places and buildings; Aborigines throwing boomerangs, charming snakes and many other things, etc., and finished up by going to the pictures at the Rose Bay Club, which also has the finest dance floor I have seen.

We Victorian party flew down to Melbourne next night, leaving Sydney at 7.55 p.m. and landing at Melbourne at 9.50 p.m. The Viscount we travelled on was air travel de luxe, two mannequin hostesses tended to our wants, supper, a whisky or two. We flew at 29,000 feet at 370 miles an hour and it was as quiet and as comfortable as sitting in your own lounge at home.

I must turn back a page to remind you that as we left Auckland amongst the radiograms I received, was one that read, "Good trip best wishes, don't forget "Loophole"—Dick Scott." So if you feel that anyone should be blamed for me inflicting these articles on you, well—you know who to blame.

—L. D. WATERS.

"EYE-OF-THE-DAWN"

Such was the poetical translations of the Maori name which her owners gave to a ship which in her brief life was to serve New Zealand and the Empire well. "Awatea" was built for the Union Company by Vickers Armstrong at Barrow-in-Furness in 1936, and was one of the outstanding passenger liners of her time. A handsome ship, she measured 13,482 tons gross register, had a length of 527 feet and a moulded breadth of 74 feet. Propelled by twin screws, she had a full speed of more than 22 knots, and on one occasion logged 576 miles in a day's run—an average speed of over 23 knots, the fastest steaming ever made by a merchant ship in the Southern Hemisphere.

Designed for the Sydney-Wellington and Sydney-Auckland service, "Awatea" started her career when she sailed from Wellington for Sydney on 15th September, 1936. Over the busy summer months in particular this remarkable ship was seldom in harbour for as much as twelve hours. For weeks on end she did not spend one night in port. The perfection of shore organisation as much as the terrific steaming powers of the ship are well illustrated by the fact that in one period of forty-one days she made eleven Tasman crossings, and a coastal passage between Wellington and Auckland.

The first association between "Awatea" and New Zealand's war effort came when, in December, 1939, the advance party of the First Echelon crossed to Sydney in her, en route to Egypt. Normal trans-Tasman running continued until July, 1940, when she went to Manila and embarked a large number of women and children who had been evacuated from points in the Far East, and took them to Sydney. Several trips in the Vancouver service followed, during which some 3,600 Australian and New Zealand airmen, proceeding to Canada for training, were carried. In December, 1940, she sailed from Sydney in a fast convoy to Colombo, where she landed a draft of New Zealand troops bound for Egypt.

The "Awatea" continued in the Vancouver service until September, 1941, when she was requisitioned by the British Ministry of War Transport. Shortly after leaving Vancouver for the United Kingdom she was damaged in collision, and while under repair back in Vancouver was stripped of her luxury liner fittings and converted to a troop transport.

Her first task in her new role was transporting Canadian troops to Hong Kong, and she then proceeded to Britain by way of Singapore, Colombo, Mombasa and Trinidad. Almost at once she sailed again with troops for India, returning with refugees from the East Indies. A convoy to Durban followed, and the "Awatea" then crossed the Atlantic to Halifax where Canadian troops were embarked for Britain. On the second day out from Halifax, in convoy, "Awatea" collided with and cut in two an American destroyer which tried to cross her bows, and the destroyer sank with heavy loss of life. After repairs at Halifax the "Awatea" sailed for Britain where she was fitted out as a Landing Ship, Infantry, for the North African landings.

Sailing in one of the fast convoys "Awatea" landed her troops, the 6th Commando, on the beaches near Algiers on 8th November, and

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sailed on 10th November with another fast convoy, which was to land troops at Bougie, 100 miles to the east of Algiers. Like all Allied ships which kept the seas during war-time the "Awatea" had been in constant danger for many months, but now the sands were running out for her. Leaving the convoy at Bougie she sailed on to Djidjelli, where a heavy swell made the intended landing of troops impossible and she returned to Bougie, anchoring in company with the other ships. The objective of the Djidjelli landing was to occupy the airfield there, and although this was carried out by paratroops, the original failure of the mission delayed and restricted the fighter protection available, and no doubt helped to seal the fate of the "Awatea".

Heavy bombing by enemy aircraft sank several ships and damaged others, and the "Awatea" sailed from the anchorage about 5 p.m. on 11th November to keep her rendezvous with fate. Waves of bombers singled her out, and she was hit several times although fighting savagely with all her guns. On fire and badly damaged she was abandoned and sank during the night, her crew getting away in her boats and aboard the destroyers which had been assisting to fight the fires. Her Master, Captain G. B. Morgan, who was awarded the D.S.O., was able to report that his crew had behaved splendidly throughout. Under heavy bombing they had worked their ship in the best traditions of the Merchant Service, and the gun crews had served their guns like veterans. Six decorations were awarded to the members of the crew, and eight were Mentioned in Despatches. In addition three servicemen were also recognised.

So passed the "Awatea". In her brief life of little more than six years she had steamed more than 576,000 miles in peace and war.

Get your 1955 red date attachment now

OUR CLUBHOUSE

Your Committee is keen to improve Clubhouse facilities and amenities etc., and try to introduce more of a Club atmosphere. Keeping in mind our new Clubhouse we would like suggestions,—(and by the way just what have you done about your free of interest debenture?). It is intended to place a suggestion box in the lounge and any member who has a suggestion for the better running of the Club, or any bright and constructive ideas, is asked to place their written suggestion in the box. Your Committee would be pleased to hear them and will be only too happy to give them consideration. For instance, should we remove our hats when entering the Club, should we throw our butts on the floor. We don't do these things at home, why do them in the Clubhouse? Remember it is a Club not a Pub, and there are ample pegs and ashtrays. We could perhaps bring in such rules as these, and introduce a penalty box for the offenders. We think the Club atmosphere could be improved in many ways, and we would like members to forward their views and so give us a picture of how the Club can be improved.

Your Clubhouse Committee looks forward to the day when the foundation stone of the new Clubhouse will be laid, and, of course, the building finally completed. And so with our own ideas and yours the Club atmosphere can prevail. Why wait until then, let us have a look now.

W. J. PERKINS, Chairman.

* * * *

Keen wife (to husband, in cinema): "Those film actors don't always do those wonderful tricks. I'm told they have a double."

Bored husband: "I don't blame them. I'm going out to have one myself in a few minutes."

REMEMBER ERIC WILKES is Cash Buyer of Wool & Skins

CLUBHOUSE RE-BUILDING

You have all been circularised through Loophole and been given reasonable Press publicity on this subject. If you are a new member or recently transferred to Marlborough, the Association Secretary will be happy to acquaint you of our proposals. All agree that a new clubhouse is a necessity. You will agree that the plan to raise the necessary finance from our members by the issue of non-interest-bearing debentures is sound. Not a single member has criticised this plan; but every member who has discussed the matter has spoken favourably of it.

How to Contribute: In these prosperous times, and as citizens of this Welfare State, it is doubtful if there is a single member who cannot afford to contribute. We do realise, however, that it is not always practicable to take a tenner from the wife's housekeeping money; but this is not necessary. Many of our members have already talked the matter over with their wives and decided to contribute £10, by a single payment or by two or more payments. A number have started on monthly instalments of £1, which is the minimum sum it will be economical to deal with in the office. Contributions of £1 per month will help the project very considerably and will not be considered anything but a very commendable effort by those who resort to this method of finally contributing their £10. If you intend contributing on the instalment system, please fill in the loose form in this issue of Loophole—sign same and send in to the Secretary with your first instalment as soon as possible.

If you are a farmer and in a position that will allow, you may wish to make a contribution of more than ten pounds. It may then be necessary or prudent to wait until wool, lamb or grain cheques are received, in from four to eight months time. You, also, could materially assist by sending in the enclosed form, duly signed signifying the proposed amount of your contribution. Business and professional men generally have credit balances in their current accounts, which are not earning interest, so we can hardly make a case for them to defer action.

The whole point summed up is this—Cash is wanted now, and if cash is not available now, your promise of a contribution is being solicited.

Calls: Our Committee is comprised of busy men, who give a lot of time and attention to R.S.A. affairs. They also, have wives, families and gardens to attend, and little spare time to make personal calls on our members. We did intimate that they would call on you; but we also realise the magnitude of the task. You can play your part by getting in early with your contribution, or your signed promise.

Lists: Lists of contributions are posted in the Clubhouse and will be published in Loophole. Those sending in signed promises, either for one sum payments or instalments, will have their names recorded on a "promise" list; but method of payment if by instalment, will not be divulged. No Press publicity will be given to individual contributions.

Refund: Should insufficient funds be received (and this is inconceivable) members' contributions will be refunded in full.

Debentures will be of one denomination only—£10. They will be issued in place of the receipt you will receive when making your contribution. They will be transferable; but transfer will require to be registered at the R.S.A. Office. A sum of approximately £700 to £1000 will be set aside each year to repay debentures. This sum could quite feasibly be £1500 or more per year, according to the support you give your Club.

Each debenture holder will participate in a ballot each year, which means that some members will be lending a Tenner for twelve months only. All should be repaid in full within fifteen years. If a member has contributed say £50, he will hold five debentures and so have five chances to obtain repayment of his contribution. Remember, we are not asking for donations; but merely for the loan of a **Ten Pound Note**. Larger contributions have been made and many generous donations have been

received. Many more have been promised; but until we all get in behind this re-building project, your Committee will be hamstrung. Don't leave it to the willing horse—don't defer your good intentions, and above all, be assured that your Committee will spend the monies received wisely for your comfort and convenience.

Club Subscription: A subscription to a club such as envisage, would normally cost a member three to five guineas a year. When a member has contributed £10, which normally would earn five shillings per year in interest, he is virtually paying five shillings a year to belong to a first class Club. He may pay this small subscription for one year or two years only, according to the draw of the ballot.

Plans: Plans of the proposed new Clubhouse were printed in the December issue of Loophole. You will recall that several special general meetings were called and members were invited to send in their ideas of a new building. The response was not particularly gratifying. It was evident that they were prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Committee. To produce plans and specifications, showing full details of ground plan and elevations etc., would mean an immediate expenditure of from £500 to £1000. If the plans were not used, this would mean that the above named sum would be wasted. The plan shown in Loophole in December, cost the Association £5, so it won't matter much if we do not use that plan. Many members think that the Committee have not yet hit on the right plan and your Committee would be the first to agree that improvements can be made. The first essential is the raising of funds. We don't go round inspecting Rolls Royce cars with the view to buying one with only a ten bob note in our pockets.

A minority of our members say "show us a plan that suits us, and we'll support it". A fair criticism of this attitude is "quibbling", particularly when it is known that plans are so costly. There will be no backing down from the proposals to re-build our Clubhouse. Give us the cash and we'll do the job.

For the Building Finance Committee,
P. G. TIZARD, Secretary.

Get your 1955 red date attachment now

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?

We sent a circular letter to our South African Veteran members, stating that they would not be personally canvassed for contributions to our Building Fund, but that we would not refuse voluntary contributions. We felt that these Life Members, few in number and none of them under 70 years of age, should not be worried unduly. Several individual contributions have been received from these veterans; but our greatest joy is the news that their Association is making a £50 donation to the Building Fund. Well done; and thank you, veterans of last century.

Paid your £10 to the Building Fund yet? Do it Now!

"If I tell the girl next door that she has a beautiful figure, do you think she will hold it against me?"

* * *
Though a husband should make an occasional error,
He need never quake in consequent terror,
If he takes a firm stand near a chair that is handy
And maintains a strong hand, full of flowers and candy!
* * * * *

Two old maids went for a tramp in the woods, but the tramp showed no interest.

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UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

Of the many Unit Associations which have sprung up since both World Wars, perhaps none has flourished to such an extent as the Long Range Desert Group Association.

Formed by a small band of enthusiasts, headed by Major C. S. Morris (M.C.) in 1947, the Association has grown from strength to strength until to-day there are over two hundred former members of the Unit paying regular subscriptions to make the Association perhaps the most solvent of all Unit bodies formed since 1939. With £400 in the bank, the Committee has every reason to be satisfied with its financial position.

The most important task of the Committee, is to keep members in touch with each other, and this is done by holding Annual Re-unions in Christchurch, Wellington and Hamilton in successive years. In addition to these re-unions, there have been two issues of a membership booklet showing the name and address of every known member, and newsletters are sent out to every member twice each year.

The Unit has its own tie, gold scorpions superimposed on a royal blue background, and Unit badges are in course of manufacture.

Marlborough had more than her fair share of members in the original Long Range Patrol, and of the thirty-two men who formed the first experimental patrol, no less than nine came from Marlborough. These comprised Joe Eyles, Ian Ferguson, Bill Hammond, Buster Gibb, Joe Zimmerman, Athel Hood, Ron Landon-Lane, Rex Beech (killed in action with the Patrol), and Clarrie Roderick (killed while leading Partisan troops in Italy). On the formation of the Desert Group, Marlborough supplied a further four members in Sam Lucas, Keith Yealands, Ron Davies and Jack Taylor. Local men are also well to the fore in the administration of the Association. Ron Lane is a Vice-President, Bill Hammond is Honorary Auditor, and Athel Hood is Honorary Secretary.

The relief of hardship amongst members is not overlooked by their cobbles and as a result of an appeal for assistance to one member who had suffered in health as a result of his service in the Unit, a sum of over £100 was raised and handed over.

As long as this spirit exists the Association must continue to flourish.

W. A. HOOD.

Thanks Athel, now what we'd like is a series of articles on incidents humorous or otherwise of this select band. Here are three extracts from "Popski's Private Army" by Lt. Col. Vladimir Peniakoff.

1. "The New Zealanders are all brothers and sisters and cousins, for they have all known each other from childhood and they are gentle, playful and earnest, like serious children who don't break their toys!"

2. Of the L.R.D.G. he said, "I graded their squadrons, drawn from various parts of the Empire, on a scale of human excellence, which ranged from the New Zealanders high on top, through the Rhodesians and British Yeomanry down to, etc.—"

3. "Though I was not strictly entitled to it, I was admitted to the New Zealand hospital along with my companions, and I felt I was receiving a great favour."

Later he says: "New Zealanders are New Zealanders and there is no one like them."

—Editor.

Paid your £10 to the Building Fund yet? Do it Now!

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THE HIGH COST OF LIVING—AND DYING

Much has been written about the high cost of living and loving, little about the cost of high living and nothing about the cost of dying. Dying is cheap enough to the fellow who dies; but his death can become an embarrassment to someone. It's a subject we won't allow ourselves to discuss with those near and dear to us. Is this from fear of being accused of being morbid, or do we think we are going to live as long as Methuselah did—so what's the hurry, and why the need to worry.

Periodically, during the past five years, we have seen those left behind (the next-of-kin), embarrassed over the questions of place of burial, cremation, and costs of the funeral. Most of these questions, perplexing and embarrassing to next-of-kin, could be answered during an evening's fireside chat. We can quote a case where this was done and agreement reached that Dad be buried in the Servicemen's Cemetery and Mum is to be cremated when her times arrives. There will be no one left in this family to care for Mother's grave—hence cremation—and both knew that the Servicemen's Plots will be tended until ?, well for long enough. A second case has come to mind of a member advising me that he had bought a double section at the cemetery as the decision had been made for this couple to be buried together. These two couples are to be commended for their sensible approach to this subject. They will not be the only ones who have made similar decisions; but this article is not written for them—but to those who may be accused of lack of courage to face up to these problems.

Are we then in order in suggesting that the question of cremation, place of burial, etc., be decided while there is still time? Funeral costs are also a matter which could well be considered. We were recently presented with a funeral account which ran into a sum of about £70. We have also had accounts handed to us for as low as £33. Why the difference may well be asked. In the first case a double plot was purchased and several taxis were engaged—the burial taking place in the public cemetery. In the second case, no hired cars were used and the burial was in the servicemen's cemetery where there is no charge for the plot.

In print, these remarks may appear to be mercenary, they are, however, problems which have caused a pang of concern in the hearts of those already suffering the severe loss of a loved one. We have seen these statements of funeral costs, when next-of-kin have asked if the R.S.A. defrays costs of such burials. Unfortunately our reply is always in the negative. If it is realised that an average of 30 members are buried each year at a cost of say £45, the Association would require £1350 per annum to met all funeral expenses.

We can assist, however, in necessitous cases, by asking for a funeral grant of £25 from the Social Security Department. A means test is applied by the Department in all such cases.

If a returned man's death is attributable to war service, the costs of funeral and headstone are paid by the Department of Internal Affairs. The War Pensions Department is responsible for the decision as to whether a death is attributable to War Service. There is a right of appeal against the Department's decision; but new and strong medical evidence would need to be brought forward to support an appeal. The foregoing applies to burials in servicemen's cemeteries and not to public cemeteries.

The cost of a plaque (£5/12/6) or of an upright headstone (£10/10/-) is borne by next-of-kin. Plaques are the type of headstone used in the Omaka Servicemen's Lawn Cemetery and may not be used in the new public lawn cemetery. This is a regulation imposed by the Cemetery Board and not by the R.S.A. Upright headstones (£10/10/-) may be used in the public lawn cemetery, but not in the Servicemen's Lawn Cemetery. The cost of erection of an upright headstone is borne by next-of-kin; but the price of a plaque (£5/12/6) covers cost of erection in the Servicemen's Lawn Cemetery.

It is the desire of the M.R.S.A. to have graves well and uniformly kept. No special devices are permissible. To facilitate the cutting

of grass, next-of-kin are urged not to lay artificial wreaths or leave jars etc. on the lawn cemetery. The danger of having these broken by power mowers is great.

Should next-of-kin have any financial worries after the burial of a loved one, they should not hesitate to put their problems before an official of the R.S.A. Ways and means will be found to assist those who need assistance.

—PEEGEETEE.

Paid your £10 to the Building Fund yet? Do it Now!

WOMEN'S SECTION

At the Annual Meeting of the Women's Section there was a very large attendance of members. Mrs. C. Ashley was re-elected as President. Our social afternoons have been very well attended. The popularity of indoor bowls has increased this year and members are taking part in the club's competition games, also they have taken part in a competition with the men—this was for a handsome trophy donated by Mr. W. Perkins. The men, proving too good for the ladies, are the holders for this year. We also have exchanged visits with Picton for indoor bowls and cards. The main social event was the Annual Ball, when twelve debutantes were presented to the Postmaster General, the Hon. T. Shand and Mrs. Shand. The social afternoons are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at 2.30 p.m.

We have recently had two most interesting talks, one by Miss Anne Chaytor, and another by Mr. L. Waters. We are very grateful to these people for giving up their time to us. We would welcome new members, and would anyone wishing to join the Section please contact the Secretary, Mrs. K. Wilson, Scott Street—Phone 2210. Any mother, wife, sister or daughter of a Returned Serviceman is eligible for membership.

OUTDOOR BOWLS

Now is the time to see Jack Wilkins, Hon. Secretary, or Hugh Duncan, President, if you are thinking of taking up that all-absorbing, interesting, easy, tantalising, pleasing, annoying, social game of bowls. The season will open next month. The Club needs more members—so jump right into it now. Join the Marlborough R.S.A. Bowling Club and be with your cobbers.

—P.G.T.

POPPY DAY SALES

In our last issue, we stated that the Women's Section carried out their duties on Poppy Day very efficiently and mentioned the wives and widows of W.W.1 men, to whom we are grateful. We failed to mention that three W.W.2 wives also played their part and we acknowledge gratefully their assistance; but we were not so pleased to be torn to ribbons by one wife of a W.W.2 member because of our failure to mention them. For this omission we apologise; but we cannot prevent ourselves from asking one pertinent question, "Where are the wives of the other 997 W.W.2 men?" Isn't it time they came forward to ease the burden of those D.O.L.'s of W.W.1?

GALLIPOLI VETERANS ASSOCIATION RE-UNION

The Wellington R.S.A. is being wrongly blamed and unjustly criticised for the apparent lack of organisation and the chaotic state of affairs that occurred at the above re-union on 25th, 26th and 27th April last.

They wish to disclaim any responsibility, and to point out that all arrangements were made by the Wellington Gallipoli Veterans Association.

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FLAGS—AND HOW TO FLY THEM

Flags have a language of their own. Their origin is lost in the mists of the past, but throughout history flags have been used as symbols—sacred symbols, bringing with them an inheritance from the ages before history began. Many flags have their origins in the personal emblems of a particular family or represent the national struggles of a people—whatever their origins they are saluted with veneration as the Sovereign is saluted as the personification of the State. With this sacred association in mind it is well that we should understand a little of the composition of our own national emblems and the customs and ordinance which surrounds the displaying of them.

The Royal Standard:

The Royal Standard and the Standard of Scotland are personal emblems of the Sovereign and may not normally be flown except in the Sovereign's presence. The Standard of Scotland is flown only when the Sovereign is actually in Scotland.

The Union Jack:

Properly called the Union Flag, the Union Jack derives its name from the upright spar or jackstaff on a ship's bow (not as some claim from James I, who signed himself Jacques). The original flag dating from 1606 combined the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. In 1801 the diagonal red cross of St. Patrick was added for Ireland. For some years the Navy and the Army used rival versions, different in "fimbriation" (the white stripes separating the colours), but the Navy design was finally adopted everywhere. In flying the Union Jack, see that the broad white diagonal is uppermost at the "hoist", i.e., the upper canton nearest the mast.

The Union Jack may be flown by all British subjects on land.

The White Ensign:

The White Ensign combines the original flag of England, a red St. George's Cross on a white field with a Union Flag in the upper canton. The White Ensign is flown only on H.M. Ships. The use of the White Ensign on Churches, houses or buildings is not only illegal, it is an offence against good taste and proper etiquette.

The New Zealand Ensign:

The New Zealand Ensign is made up of the Blue Ensign with the addition of the four main stars of the Southern Cross. It came into official use in 1901, replacing a flag representing the Governor's Badge superimposed on the Union Jack (four red stars with white borders on a blue circle). The New Zealand Ensign is the flag of New Zealand for general use on shore within New Zealand and on all vessels belonging to the Government of New Zealand or which are from time to time permitted under Admiralty Warrant to use the same.

N.B.—Every person who defaces a New Zealand Ensign by placing any sign, representation or letter thereon shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

The flag of the New Zealand Merchant Navy is the Red Ensign with the addition of four stars.

Order of Flags on Buildings:

The right side of a building (i.e., on observer's right hand as he stands facing the street within the building) is the place of honour, therefore, if a building possesses more than one flagstaff, the order of precedence, right to left, is as follows: Union Jack, N.Z. Ensign, other Commonwealth Flags, Foreign Flags, House Flags.

Dressing a Building:

A building is properly dressed with strips of coloured bunting, strings of coloured pennants or signal flags or with national colours and other devices.

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Proportionate Size Flag to Flagstaff:

While there is nothing officially laid down, this is mostly a matter of commonsense—a good general rule is that no more than three flag depths of pole should be showing beneath the flag.

Days on Which Flags are Flown:

The following dates are those on which flags are flown on Government buildings. Public buildings and business houses will generally follow suit.

New Year's Day: January 1st.

Her Majesty's Accession Day: February 6th.

St. Patrick's Day: March 17th.

Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen: April 21st.

St. George's Day: April 23rd.

Anzac Day: April 25th.

Empire Day: May 24th.

Sovereign's Birthday: First Monday in June (day of official observance).

Birthday of Duke of Edinburgh: June 10th.

Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother: August 4th.

Dominion Day: Fourth Monday in September.

Labour Day: Fourth Monday in October.

Birthday of Prince Charles: November 14th.

St. Andrew's Day: November 30th.

Opening of Parliament by Governor-General—in Wellington only. (Not when opened by Commissioners.)

Provincial Anniversary Day (by towns situated within particular Province).

Note: Whenever any of the above dates falls on a Sunday, the flags are to be flown on the following Monday, except Anzac Day, when flags are flown on the actual date.

Dates on which Flags are Half Masted:

1. Demise of Crown—from death until after the funeral.
2. Death of Foreign Sovereign (days will actually be decided by Government—N.Z. Ensign only is flown).
3. On death of Ministers and Members of General Assembly.
4. Commonwealth Prime Ministers in Office—day of death and day of funeral.
5. Death of Permanent Heads of Government Departments.
6. Remembrance Day (half masted for two minutes at 11 a.m.).

Hours to Fly:

Unlike the French Tricolor, which flies by night and day, it is our custom to fly the flag from dawn till dusk; the lowering is our symbol of respect for the past, the breaking at the masthead at dawn, our symbol of hope for the future.

"Recruit"—Aged 86.

Probably the most surprised Branch in the Legion during recent months is Ewell (Surrey). They received an application from Mr. J. C. Brook, who submitted his service record, as is customary, but discovered that he was not a National Serviceman or World War II man. In fact, he wasn't even a World War I man, for his service began in 1888.

Mr. Brook had waited until he was 86 to join the Legion. Unique among his claims was that he was mechanised on a "Penny Farthing" bicycle. As a volunteer in the 1st V.B.R.S.R. (35th Sussex) he was one of 12 "Penny Farthing" cyclists in D Company under Colonel Tamplin.

* * * *

In Marlborough we are still getting new members from the ranks of W.W.I veterans. There are still a few about who have never joined the R.S.A.

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ARTICLES WANTED

Loophole is but a book for you to read,
Cast in a mould so diabolical,
That its stories are historical,

So now I plead:—

Do you know a funny story?
Not too old and not too gory,
Perhaps some silly little ditty,
Not obscene, a little witty,
Maybe a gag that's not too corny,
We'll not be bored if it be wormy,
Some little adage, or odd ode,
As long as it be not in code,
Or can you write a funny tale,
That's not with age, got very stale.
Then, if you can and know the caper,
Send it to our little paper,
So its pages can increase,
Before the editor's decease!
Listen joker do not tarry,
Send it to our Secretary.

—G. H. YOUNG.

Don't worry about the Editor's decease, George. He is aware that to-morrow is rushing towards us at 1000 miles an hour; but for the past sixty odd years he has managed to keep a day ahead of it.

—Editor.

Get your 1955 red date attachment now

Scene: A train compartment in Roumania during the war.

Characters: A German officer, a Roumanian officer, an old lady, and a young, attractive girl.

The train enters a tunnel. Passengers first hear a loud kiss, then a vigorous slap. Train emerges into the light again. Everyone remains silent, but the German officer has a black eye.

The old lady thinks: "What a good girl she is, such a fine moral character."

The girl thinks: "How odd! Fancy the German trying to kiss that old lady and not me!"

The German thinks: "That Roumanian is a smart one—he steals the kiss and I get slapped."

The Roumanian thinks: "I'm a clever fellow. I kiss the back of my hand, hit a German officer, and get away with it!"

Platonic love is like being invited down into the cellar for a bottle of ginger ale.

"Any big men born around here?" a tourist asked in a condescending tone.

"Nope," responded the native, "Best we can do is babies. Different in the city, I suppose."

Boys and girls who stay out late,
Ostensibly to perambulate,
End up soon, if not later,
Pushing a perambulator!

My husband, shopping in a men's store, overheard one woman tell another that she was buying a gift for her husband for Mothers' Day.

"Why don't you wait until Fathers' Day?" her friend asked.

"Oh, I always get him something for Mothers' Day. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be a mother."

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COURT MARTIAL

Steenbecque, 1916. Platoon of P.B.I. billeted in the attic, family on the ground floor.

Platoon climbs very—repeat very—narrow stairs leading to attic. The platoon officer's batman has left his boss's service revolver, which he is about to clean, on his pack, and ducked in next door to see Joan, everybody's target anytime, leaving revolver to look after itself.

Jock (which is not his name) picked up the weapon, waved it around his head and then pointed it to the floor, or ceiling, according to the point of view, shouting "Deadwood Dick from the Bluehill Mountains—One, Two, Three, Bang!"

Unfortunately Jock's "bang" was drowned by the roar of a very serviceable revolver, followed by a feminine scream below where the natives were at dinner.

After the jam on the stairs had been freed, we found that the lady of the house had received a flesh wound in the upper part of her arm.

When reminded of the incident at a country branch re-union many years afterwards, Jock replied: "It's a damned lie. I just picked up the revolver and the sergeant major bawled, 'Prisoner and Escort, Quick March,'"—so he admitted to the Court Martial that followed in due course.—Bugler, Rai Valley.

A STICKY BUSINESS

As a P.O.W., taken at El Alamein in 1942, I soon realised when fellow-sufferers taken later in Italy or Normandy joined us that comparatively speaking ours had been a "bow and arrow" war. Some paratroopers from Arnhem were interesting blokes to talk to, and, athirst for information, I asked one if anybody ever refused to jump when it came to the point. He grinned and said "Well, yes, some do, but I never had a hope. You see, I was a mortar-man, and had the barrel strapped along my leg. I couldn't walk properly, so two others half-carried me to the door, then when the green light went on, simply swung my loaded leg out into space—and I followed!"

Being cursed with a fairly vivid imagination, the vision of his plunge gave me several nightmares.

Clearing up bomb-debris with a P.O.W. gang in a heavily-bombed German city, we came across a small paper bag, weight about ten pounds. Someone slit the top, and it was pronounced to be flour. Rations were appalling at the time, just before Germany's total collapse, so although looting was liable to mean a firing-squad we determined to get it back to our quarters. Out of sight of the guests we divided it carefully and tied it up in rather (well, very, really!) grubby handkerchiefs, and survived the

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searching guards on our return to quarters. The loot was tipped out in a heap for fair division, and somebody sifted it thoughtfully between finger and thumb. "Bit gritty, isn't it?" he said. The general opinion was that anything found among that debris would certainly be gritty, but just in case, we mixed a little with water. Plaster of Paris! A sobering thought was that even though it was completely useless to us, its discovery would still have led to severe strife.—N9837.

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