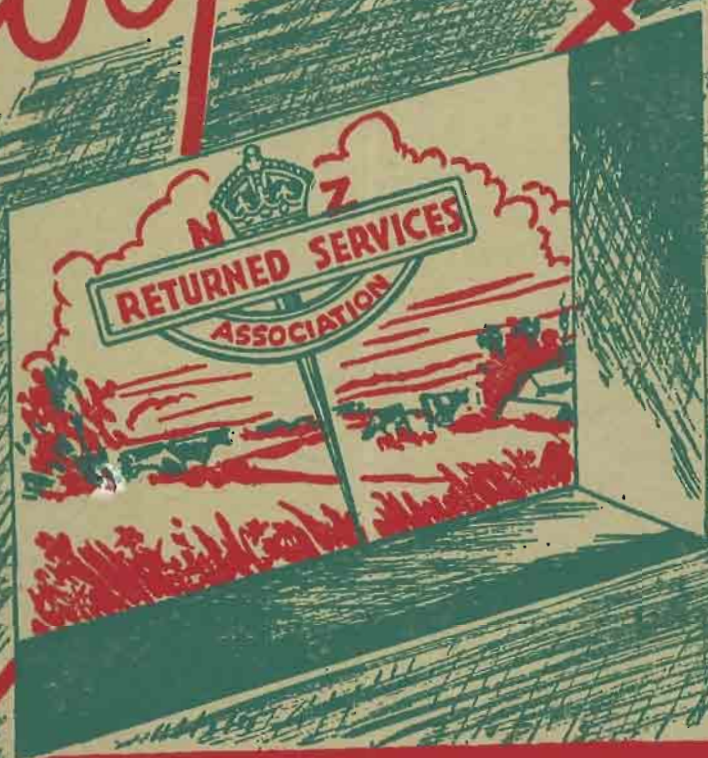


Loophole



OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN
of the
MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES ASSN

Vol. 1 No. 1 December 1951

1993 025-0006

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PRESIDENTIAL

With this issue, the third year of Loophole begins. We hope you will like our "new-look." Don't hesitate to voice or write your opinion. One of our greatest difficulties is to obtain or provide criticism. Most of the comments made are too placidly pleasing and provide no points or pegs on which our hard-driven editor can hang comments or future articles. We are certain this news bulletin of ours is appreciated by many members, so please help us to keep it going by sending in material for future issues. Don't worry if, to you, your offering seems unfinished; our editor has a magnificent polishing capacity developed, we believe, even before 1914 and enhanced considerably since then.

All the Association's activities are progressing. Various sub-branches have been holding re-unions and dances and Kaikoura recently held a successful Diggers Golf Tournament. Welfare work is still continuing under the able generalship of Frank Parker. The Indoor Bowling Club and the Miniature Rifle Club, numbering among its most welcome active members serving personnel from Woodbourne Station, have completed very successful seasons. The Outdoor Bowling Club has commenced a new season on an excellent green, thanks to the voluntary strenuous work of some of its members during the winter and early spring.

The Women's Section with its supporting sports activities is still very active.

The Charter facilities of the Association are becoming more and more fully appreciated by members and it is now more than evident that our present Clubhouse is inconvenient and inadequate. It becomes more apparent each week that our proposed new premises are overdue, so if you have not yet done anything to help ensure their erection, please read carefully the article in this issue about our Building Fund and then call on the Secretary with your contribution.

These very brief comments on the Association's activities would be incomplete without reference to the work of the office staff, Mr Tizard and Miss Healy, of our Clubhouse staff, Mr Shannon and Mr Cruickshank and last, but not least, of Mrs Shannon. The service received by members has been given under circumstances sometimes more than difficult and on your behalf I thank them all.

May I take this opportunity to offer you all on behalf of the Executive our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

J. A. BELL,
President.

A MOAN FROM THE ED.

"The matter that makes up our gazette, to be at least readable to our members, is not gathered easily, nor is it always in shape for publication on reception and frequently needs some doctoring, but whatever it is, there is always a welcome awaiting it. So many members have promised to forward items of interest, but rarely does anything materialise and maybe it is not strange that the Editor often moans. That position was taken over by an individual without any former knowledge of editing and it is mainly trial and error that is, one hopes, partially succeeding in the publication.

"Every member of the Club can be a correspondent, there is ample room, and whatever it may be you care to send, it will receive every consideration and a real 'thank you.'

"We would not mind criticism if it is logical. You can even swear (for I shall put the editorial pencil through that) but do write something and let us have a story, yarn or joke, that will bear the light of day, and then we'll know of your interest in the Club and its welfare."

The foregoing is an extract from the G.L.A. (Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs) gazette Editorial. On the same day as I received my G.L.A. gazette, the Dominion published a review of "Jump for It" by Gerald Bowman. Here is an extract which tells of a nasty experience of one of our valued members.

"In this collection of true stories ex-Squadron Leader Bowman reveals that while a jump from a doomed aircraft may offer a chance of escaping death in a particularly nasty form it also brings its own peculiar terror and danger. No one will appreciate more the trials involved than Mr W. B. Parker who lives in Blenheim.

"The account of his experience when escaping from a blazing aeroplane at 29,000 feet over Kent in 1940 deserves, and is given, pride of place. Pilot Officer Parker, as he was then, was setting forth on a mission to photograph enemy formations when a Messerschmitt set his aeroplane on fire. His long descent was a fight against the flames which took a hold on his petrol-soaked flying suit. With hope gone he at-

tempted to free himself from the parachute, but instead the harness caught around one ankle and he drifted upside down to earth.

"Such are the ordeals through which men must graduate to become members of the celebrated Caterpillar Club, so called because the parachute, now made from nylon, was first produced from the silk of the caterpillar."

We do know that Keith Smith—that excellent little golfer—is also a member of the Caterpillar Club. We do know that Jim Naysmith, our honorary treasurer, towed gliders during W.W.2. Admittedly, Jim had a Stirling or a Wellington or some other large plane to help him; but he didn't get the D.F.C. because of his good looks only. We do know that our worthy President, a tank and a Hun shell had conflicting ideas of how to wage war; but Jim didn't get his M.M., because he won a trophy at the Marlborough Golf Club's annual tournament — and, incidentally earned his handicap. Colin Campbell Jnr., also sports a M.M. He must know something about keeping radio contact even though enemy shell-fire had pin-pointed him.

Many and varied have been the experiences of all our members. Those we have mentioned could tell us a story—we don't want heroics and blood-lust; but we do plead with one and all to send in reports, articles, or script — call it what you will — written in your own style; then, with your help Loophole will continue to serve our members and our Association.

This is not our first appeal to you in this strain—let's hope it is the last.

EDITOR.

THE LAST ROLL CALL

Since our last 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."

7/1008 J. Thompson; 12608 H. J. O'Meagher; 6/2722 F. H. Pacey; S.A. and 25/1215 H. McK. W. Richardson; S.A. 1450 J. P. Cavanagh; S.A. 4948

J. H. FLETCHER for CHESTERFIELD SUITES
96 Muller Road

G. Dawes; 9/666 A. D. Barr; N.457626
J. E. Strickland; 32871 T. A. Moore.

*Behind is life and its longing,
Its trial, its trouble, its sorrow;
Beyond is the Infinite Morning
Of a day without a tomorrow.*

BOY SCOUTS

An appeal is being made for Boy Scout leaders and it is thought that the R.S.A. should prove a likely re-ruiting ground.

The Boy Scout Committee have in operation a three year plan in which they hope to double membership and to improve the standard of Scout Leaders and the training of the boys. Mr R. B. Hadfield now represents this Association on the Scout Committee and the Executive Committee of R.S.A. supports the appeal for leaders and hopes that returned men and women may contribute something to this work.

There is no need to labour the importance of youth training—there has been enough said and written about that. There is a job to do and both the Governor General, who is

Dominion Chief Scout and Major-General Lockhart the new Chief Commissioner of Boy Scouts believe that the training and experience of ex-servicemen and women specially equips them to help train the boys.

General Lockhart has said that it is a pity that the training returned men have had is not being passed on to the boys.

Those interested should get in touch with either Mr R. B. Hadfield, the District Commissioner, Mr S. I. Vercoe, or the Assistant District Commissioner, Mr W. B. Bendall.

WELFARE

In an endeavour to organise official visiting of our sick members who are indisposed in their own homes, and also with the object of keeping in touch with those who have just been discharged from hospital—until such time as they are fully recovered—the following letter was addressed to our various clubs, etc.:

Quote: "The Association's Relief Committee desires to be informed of cases of our members being indisposed in their homes, so that they may be visited officially by the Marlborough R.S.A. Messrs G. Cole and R. Bullen

NEW MEMBERS

The following returned men have joined the Association during the past three 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: 206980 H. J. Sadd;

8/1382 C. A. Pickering; 14204379 P. Miller; 126495 W. J. T. Middleton; 113881 J. J. Cain; PO/X119187 D. J. McW. McKinney; 12963 S. L. B. Anderson; 946153 D. Gatland; 401083 I. L. MacDonald; 416852 L. Laugesen, rejoining ex Hanmer Springs; 16153 R. P. Wells; 38007 F. E. Symes, rejoining ex Takaka.

MEMBERSHIP AT 10/11/55 REC. 962 D.

	Financial	Unfinancial		Total Unfinancial	Total on Roll
		1 Year	over 1 Year		
Life Members	20				20
S.A. Veterans	34				34
Blenheim	966	132	140	272	1238
Picton	170	25	39	64	234
Kaikoura	140	48	16	64	204
Awatere	60	24	2	26	86
Renwicktown	39	13	22	35	74
Havelock	34	10	3	13	47
Flaxbourne	30	—	1	1	31
Rai Valley	29	4	2	6	35
Sounds	23	5	—	5	28
East Coast	18	3	1	4	22
	1563	264	226	490	2053

HIPKINS for MOTOR REQUIREMENTS

will be organising a sub-committee for this purpose, and it is suggested that your club appoint one or two members to a pool of visitors who will be asked to assist in visiting the sick members in their homes. If you have one or two members in this 'pool,' one or both would be asked to call on his clubmate, i.e., a Bowling Club member of the 'pool' would call on a sick Bowling Club member."—End quote.

Would club members or their committeemen at their next meeting, please ask if a reply has been sent to the Association Secretary—then watch those responsible for replying, very closely. If they don't blush or wince—take my tip and don't play poker with them.

Actually we did have one verbal reply naming one member only for the pool; and we can only conclude that eight letters got lost in the post!

WAR DECLARED

Auckland N.Z. Nov. 29th, 1955
From Loophole Co-respondent.

Our Auckland Co-re. has sent in the following report of the fighting on the Auckland front, between armed forces of the N.Z. Army and Navy on the one side for a change, against the bodgie-widgie-teddy boys of Auckland who had, by a clever Coup d'etat, captured several well known milk bars in the City. It appears that our paternal Government, in an effort to stamp out child delinquency by educating parents per medium of an enlightening pamphlet, had unwittingly taught our children just how much fun they could have by "delinquency." Mum and Dad didn't have time to read the Government pamphlet, so gave it to the kids to read, and that's how the trouble started.

It is reported that the bodgies were sheltering behind their teenage female widgies when Army-Navy Forces struck the first telling blows with elbow jolts and well placed raised knees, which had the desired effect of clearing the stronghold and dispersing the rebel Teddies along Queen Street. Auckland's main street is aptly named. In spite of orders from the brass hats for cessation of hostilities, the Army-Navy Forces repeated the sortie a few days later, and though we are all for the observance of orders, we do feel a

subtle pride in our eighteen-year-olds—who are doing their training in Auckland and who made up the Army-Navy Forces—for their downright resentment of anything less than manliness in man.

AUSTRALIAN ANZAC DAY VISITORS

In April next year 50 Australian ex-servicemen will visit N.Z. The Marlborough Association is negotiating with the Wellington R.S.A. to have two members of the party visit us—preferably farmers. Our Seddon Sub-Branch have generously offered to billet them and show them their district. Two years ago we had a similar party visit us for one day only, when Picton Sub-Branch did the honours so well, they had great difficulty in saying goodbye to them. Would YOU like to make suggestions or offer to help entertain our guests in April?

OUR NEW LOOK

Quietly confident that Loophole is here to stay, we have blossomed forth in a new cover design in two colours and with better quality paper. Advertising rates have not been increased; but the size of Loophole has. We have to thank our advertisers for their support, which has made this magazine possible. We appeal to you to support them.

THE HORSE THIEF

I was practically born in the saddle and had been amongst horses all my life, and thought I knew all there was to know about them. I had bred them, shown them, dealt in them, and assisted to judge them at A. & P. Shows, but the following incident showed me how easy it is to fool the best of judges.

It was on the Somme in 1918. I was entitled to two mounts. I had one very good horse, but the other one was a very poor specimen.

About this time the Sergt.-Major came to me and said he had a man who wanted to get amongst horses again as he had been a trainer at Trentham before the war, and he proposed to transfer him to be the groom to the Officers' horses. We soon noticed a big improvement in the condition of our horses and gear,

REMEMBER — ERIC WILKES is Cash Buyer of Wool & Skins

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so I suggested to him one day that he might have a look around and try to find me a more suitable No. 2. During the next few weeks I tried out most of the horses in the unit, but did not find anything suitable. Then one morning he reported that he had got what we had been looking for. On inspection, I found a beautiful looking animal and was assured that she was even better than she looked, and this proved to be correct when she was saddled up and I tried her out.

Now I had better give you a description of this mare, as this is where I was taken in.

She was a beautiful dark chestnut about 17 hands high, with closely hogged mane and very short hocked tail, with 4 white legs and a white blaze on her forehead.

I was so pleased with her that I made her my No. 1, and used her whenever I could.

About this time a footnote came out on Divisional Order, something like this:

£50 Reward

General Lord ———'s Charger disappeared from the lines of the ——— Corps Headquarters on the night of ———.

The above reward will be paid to anyone returning this valuable animal to ——— Corps Headquarters.

Description: Dark Chestnut Mare —7 years old, with long mane and tail and black points including 4 black legs.

Of course I didn't take any notice of it, as my mare had 4 white legs, etc.

A few weeks later another notice came out, something like this:

General Lord ———'s Charger has not yet been returned, anybody retaining this horse will be severely dealt with.

I had a good look over the 500 or so horses under my command to make sure that I was in the clear. A week or so later, a notice something like this appeared:

The Commander-in-Chief has had a thorough search of the European Front made for General Lord ———'s Charger, and has reason to believe that this valuable animal is being retained by some unauthorised person. Anyone found in possession of this

horse will be Court Martialed.

Note.—Lord ——— again appeals for the return of this animal, as he wishes to return her to his ——— Stud in Southern Ireland.

I was still very pleased with my new mount and the more I used her the better I liked her and found that she was a natural hunter, so took to going across country whenever I got a chance.

I was out on one of these runs one day, when a sudden storm came up and I had to run for the lines. I must have gone further than I expected, because when I got back everybody was away at tea. As the mare was a lather of sweat, I decided to rub her down and when I got to the legs I found the cloth stuck to them. On closer examination I found that the 4 white legs had all been painted and the white blaze was also paint, and there was still a scab on the dock of the tail. I realised immediately of course that I had been riding Lord ———'s valuable Irish hunter for some time and realised that I had got to get rid of it as soon as possible. I immediately roused out the groom and told him what I thought of him. He only grinned and admitted that she was one of several he had lifted from the Tommies. I instructed him to take her to the nearest Tommy lines and let her go, and when I asked him the next morning, he said he was sure nobody, not even Lord ——— would recognise her, as he had used up the rest of the paint and made her into a perfect piebald.

— F. W. PARKER.

We like a man to come right out and say what he thinks—if we agree with him.

★ ★

The proud young father's filled with joy, the doc's as sore as heck: The father has a bouncing boy, the doc a bouncing cheque.

★ ★

Advice to women: Always keep your love letters; someday they may keep you.

BUILDING FUND

Names of contributors and those who have made definite promises to contribute to our Building Fund, as at 11/11/55

H. E. Hodson	N. A. Henderson	A. Teece
J. R. Register	W. Harland	R. B. Matthews
L. O. Register	S. G. Buckman	A. L. Henderson
C. Whitehead	L. Barbarini	R. A. R. Spittal
J. F. Stinear	A. W. Register	H. P. Glen
L. R. Andrell	R. E. Freeman	P. Young
R. H. Wooster	J. W. Eyles	W. G. McNabb
A. H. Sim	I. R. Simonsen	M. Dwan
T. J. Roughan	Mr & Mrs Lightfoot	D. H. Arnold
W. J. Hathorne	O. T. Coleman	A. J. Dick
J. S. Guildford	O. L. Watson	Mr & Mrs R. Gosling
W. T. Churchward	W. C. Jackson	Rai Valley R.S.A.
H. C. Cook	P. F. Jones	E. J. Anderson
J. R. Naysmith	F. C. Braisher	T. Hegglyn
D. M. Furness	G. Aston	W. G. G. Cuddon
T. Barbarini	A. Stitchbury	J. F. Rudd
L. N. Wallace	O. V. Mason	E. W. Perry
V. L. Garrod	P. Wedde	A. W. Rose
W. N. Masefield	A. Sutherland	J. T. Jackson
D. S. Woolley	G. H. Young	G. H. Shaw
W. R. McNabb	D. F. Heffer	G. T. Lawrence
W. G. Watson	C. D. Matthews	A. E. Peake
D'A. C. Stace	R. Agnew	T. P. Gunn
R. Linton	C. E. Cragg	R. T. Cragg
L. A. Harper	G. D. Fowler	Mrs R. T. Cragg
D. G. Pickering	G. L. A. Smith	J. A. Robinson
J. B. Wilkins	W. J. Perkins	C. G. Parker
S. L. Rodger	H. M. Bates	L. Pask
N. R. Cameron	G. Lott	R. T. Scott
M. J. Pethig	D. T. Dick	R. B. Hadfield
E. G. Holmstead	R. Hoar	G. A. Avery
N. K. Jellyman	H. Duckworth	G. S. Moffat
Mrs E. M. Rudd	E. A. Lucas	P. G. Tizard
G. F. Roche	R. Bullen	M. G. Clarke
T. B. Hay	G. Whimp	J. A. Bell
J. W. Sidaway	J. A. Davies	C. I. Henderson
W. McNarry	P. D. Reid	R. C. S. Bush
T. P. Shand	E. H. Looms	E. R. Norgrove
T. Pollard	D. W. B. Clarke	A. Mehlhopt
A. T. Neal	G. A. McKeown	L. Taylor
T. A. McDonald	L. E. Smith	Miss R. Duncan
C. E. Mayo	A. H. Harrison	C. Frew
F. R. Woodham	H. Tomlinson	A. A. Marfell
H. Freeth	A. A. Nacnab	W. C. J. Collett
C. P. Harnett	A. A. Kitching	W. A. Hood
N. P. Healy	Mrs J. F. Watts	W. B. Parker
J. J. Best	N. A. Gosling	F. W. Parker
E. J. Ham	Women's Section	L. S. Shannon
I. Cameron	Bowling Club	M. L. Robinson
R. J. Landon-Lane	K. Giles	B. E. Patchett
Mrs R. J. Landon-Lane	H. Duncan	D. R. Simpson
D. Mason	R. D. Cameron	G. J. Robb
S. L. B. Anderson	H. N. F. Burry	G. R. Cole
Women's Section Indoor	B. J. Hipkins	A. F. Loe
Bowls	M. Collins	Mrs A. Nees
J. J. Clark	J. H. Brooks	L. D. Waters
F. C. Gleeson	A. A. Dick	R. Waters
S. E. Wells	A. Paynter	A. N. Rabbits
A. E. Wooding	R. Hunter	L. M. North
R. Coles	H. J. Avery	R. A. Mears

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W. C. M. Jackson

South African
Veterans' Assn.

At the time of going to press, we are pleased to report that a total of £4500 is in hand for the new building.

ROSE DAY

The thanks of the Association has again been well earned by the loyal group of ladies who rallied round us on Friday, 4th November, to conduct our annual street sales of Roses. Owing to sickness in the Women's Section, Mrs Ashley, who herself has been indisposed, managed to get an enthusiastic team together at the last moment. Their effort is all the more creditable as it is felt in some quarters that Rose Day should be discontinued.

H.Q. N.Z.R.S.A. appeal annually for those Associations who have been holding an annual Rose Day appeal, to continue doing so. We remember absent comrades of both World Wars on Remembrance Day, which is held on the Sunday preceding Armistice Day—11th November. Rose Day originated in England and has spread throughout the Empire. The Alexandra Rose is the Emblem of Re-

membrance. It is not possible to give returns from our Sub-Branches of Rose Day sales; but we do know that Renwicktown could have had more on hand. Following is the result of the Blenheim effort, with individual sales:

Mrs Tizard £30/15/2; Mrs Ashley £20/10/2; Mrs Fisher £12/1/0; Mrs McMahon £11/15/3; Mrs Quinn £9/6/3; Mrs Scott £8/18/3; Mrs Lucas £8/18/3; Mrs Radd £8/3/0; Mrs Lightfoot £7/14/6; Mrs Woodham £5/0/0; Mrs Waters £4/9/9; Mrs Inder £4/9/1; Mrs Priddle £4/9/1; F. R. Lightfoot £4/1/6; Mrs Cruickshank £3/7/0; Mrs Duncan £3/4/9; Mrs Wanden £2/4/3; Mrs Patchett £2/3/9.

Sundries brought the total to £152, this being £30 more than last year's sales. Mrs Wilson & Mrs Shannon were on hand to dispense tea to sellers on their return to the Clubhouse. Our sincere thanks to all who assisted to make the day a success.

REBUILDING

When the appeal for funds was launched some six months ago, it was known that not every returned man in Marlborough would rush the office with his £10 contribution. We knew that there would be a few who would find it hard to raise their tenner without some delay and some effort, so we offered to accept instalments of £1 per month from them. We also knew that some members, such as farmers, would find it convenient to make their contribution in February or March. We knew also that a very small number of our members would stall, hedge or find lame excuses to postpone the actual payment.

We still have to find a member who can honestly say that he does not think we need a new clubhouse, that he does not approve our method of finance, that he is not interested in the rebuilding proposals or that he cannot possibly afford to contribute.

On the contrary, every member who has been interviewed has expressed general approval and their good wishes for the success of the scheme. We have met with some success; but time is of vital importance. Your Committee had hoped for a quicker response to their several appeals for prompt action by you. You know what is planned and you know that no start will be made until a minimum of £8000 is in hand. So why the delay in making your contribution? In an endeavour to ascertain why certain members had not contributed, we interviewed four or five members and tactfully—we hope—asked them exactly why we had not yet received a response from them. In all cases the answers were that they intended to make contributions. Two immediately wrote their cheques for £10. One said that he was hopeful of contributing more than £10 and by delaying action for a short period, he hoped to contribute a more substantial amount. Another felt that there was no urgency in the matter—he definitely would buy a £10 debenture for each

REGISTER BROS — Coal & Firewood Merchants

GROVE ROAD, BLENHEIM

of his two children; but recent financial transactions had kept him temporarily short. These men are sincere good fellows whose word is accepted without question in our everyday business life. We do feel that we have at least another five hundred members just as sincere, just as anxious to help and in a comparable financial position. We can only repeat our past appeals—we can only ask you to act now; to pay your £10 contribution without further delay. If you find that it will be more convenient to let us have your cheque in January, February or March, let us have a post dated cheque now—today—or if you don't like issuing post dated cheques, please let us have your "promise" on the form sent out with the September issue of Loophole.

We can make no progress until we reach the minimum target of £8000. We do feel that no returned man will ever wish to gaze on our new Clubhouse and say to himself, "what a cad I was not to help." We would like to be capable of putting into words the kindly sentiments expressed by most of our members when making their contributions—of printing letters received and of quoting sentiments expressed by some of our older members who know in their hearts that their infirmity will never allow them the use of the new building. It was a World War I man living twenty miles from Blenheim, who contributed £200 towards the fund. Will he be able to pop into the new Clubhouse daily, as you and I do? Close on our first appeal, a member who we never see in the Clubhouse came in for a talk, and left with a receipt for £50, £10 of which was a donation. What prompted a business man to send in his cheque, with a covering letter stating that the contribution was a donation—"not for a debenture" being underlined?

Could any one of our members not have been touched very deeply had he received—and written a receipt for—a fiver while he listened to the promise of another fiver before Christmas from an eighty-year-old member—not in good circumstances—living over thirty miles from Blenheim?

We could quote dozens of similar cases of contributors with their hearts in the right place. We thank them for the encouragement we have received and the drive instilled into us by them, to press this rebuilding project to a successful conclusion. Your contribution of £10 received NOW for an interest free debenture, will ensure the erection of a Marlborough R.S.A. Clubhouse, worthy of us and of Marlborough, and free of debt.

Will you like to be left out in the cold?

WELFARE

Throughout this issue of Loophole are several articles under the one heading "Welfare."

Each article should be read in conjunction with the others and all should be read and assimilated by R.S.A. Committeemen in particular.

WELFARE

Following is a list of sources from which welfare funds may be made available to our members—or their dependents. Each fund is for a particular purpose and each body administering a fund should be approached through the correct channel.

They are:—

- (a) Social Security Department: Sickness, invalids, age, widows, mothers, child and universal benefits, etc.
- (b) War Pensions Department: War Disability Pension, War Veterans' Allowance and War Veterans'

Supplementary Allowance, etc.

- (c) Special Fund (Govt.): Administered by Social Security and War Pensions Department to meet emergency cases, etc.
- (d) Canteen Fund grants for W.W.1 men, who are unable to earn the allowable income, or who may have some special need.
- (e) R.S.A. Relief Funds: Hospital visiting, Christmas grants, small urgent loans (unsecured) and urgent grants.
- (f) Patriotic Funds: For general assistance of those in need. Loans legally secured in cases where applicant is unable to raise money through normal lending channels. General welfare assistance to those in need.
- (g) N.Z.R.S.A. Trust Funds: These cover special cases, such as Imperial servicemen, British seamen and others not normally entitled to assistance from other funds.
- (h) Mayor's Relief Fund: To assist

1956 (Black) DATE CLIPS NOW AVAILABLE

worthy citizens in humble circumstances with firewood, clothing grants, etc.

- (i) P.O.W. Grants: These have been handled through the Patriotic Council for ex P.O.W.s who are in need.
- (j) Salvation Army: Help families in need with clothing, etc.
- (k) Red Cross: Clothing.
- (l) Heritage: Take care of orphans of servicemen.

The following are Societies who play their part in the welfare of members and civilians alike.

- (a) St. John Ambulance Association.
- (b) Smith Family Joyspreaders Inc.
- (c) Tuberculosis Association.
- (d) N.Z. Institute for the Blind.
- (e) Crippled Children Society.
- (f) British Sailors' Society.
- (g) Society for the Protection of Women and Children.
- (h) Discharged Prisoners' Aid Soc.
- (i) Religious Organisations.

The foregoing lists, though by no means complete, give a general idea of the comprehensive nature of welfare work carried on throughout the Dominion.

WELFARE INVESTIGATION

When dealing with a welfare case, first get the facts right. We have never run across a case where an applicant for assistance has refused to answer questions, tactfully put. Age, marital status, dependents, income, outgoings such as rent, rates, insurances, cost of special foods or medicine not supplied by the Social Security Dept., value of house or property, etc., are essential to establish "need." Jot the answers down on a sheet of paper and don't trust to memory. You are then better able to discuss the case with your fellow

committeemen and be able to forward the facts to the Association Secretary if necessary.

WELFARE—R.S.A. RELIEF FUNDS

On 20th July a special meeting was called by the Executive Committee to discuss with sub-branch representatives the advisability of pooling M.R.S.A. Relief Funds. Picton and Kaikoura Branches, were not asked to join the pool, as these branches operate separate bank accounts and having hospitals in their towns, they have some need to operate independently. Funds raised by the sale of Poppies is practically the sole source of Relief Funds. The Association has the goodwill of the general public who generously subscribe to these funds, by their whole-hearted support of our Annual Poppy Day Appeal.

We, in our turn, foster this goodwill by strict observance of the trust imposed on us by ensuring that there is no misuse of Relief Funds. Relief Funds should be kept in a separate bank account and a separate annual balance sheet—showing all transactions in the Account—should be handed to the Association Secretary shortly after the end of the financial year. Some branches have not been strictly observing this procedure, causing grave concern to the Executive Committee, hence the calling of a conference between representatives of branches and the Executive Committee. The proposals put to branches was for them to hand the whole of the proceeds of Poppy Day sales to the Association's central fund. Branches would have an imprest account of £10 and when an assistance grant was made by them,

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the amount of the grant would be immediately reimbursed from the central fund. Branches, by this means, would always have £10 on hand for immediate use and this could be kept in their general account, thus saving the Secretary and Auditor much labour.

The Executive Committee had two other objects in view when calling the conference. They were:—

- (a) The desirability of Relief Funds being distributed uniformly throughout the Association's territory.
- (b) To acquaint Branches of funds available for welfare purposes, so that R.S.A. Relief Funds are used judiciously.

In regard to (a) the uniform distribution of Relief Funds, it was stressed that in all cases a means test is necessary. A wave of sympathy in small localities often influences the making of grants, out of all proportion to the need. As an instance we can quote the case of a grant being made to a man in receipt of £85 per month, as a token of sympathy with him in his illness. We are also aware of cases being met out of Relief Funds, when the case should have been referred to the Association Secretary, who is also Secretary of the Marlborough Provincial Patriotic Council. Had the matter been referred to him, there is no doubt that the member would have received a greater benefit and the Sub-Branch's Relief Fund would not have suffered.

Under a separate heading will be listed the sources from which welfare funds are available to members. If Branches have a welfare case on their hands, they would be well advised to make a preliminary investi-

gation and if found necessary, to make a small grant of two or three pounds in urgent cases, and to immediately refer the matter to the Association Secretary, who will be able to advise if assistance may be expected from another source. It is hardly fair to expect Sub-Branch Committeemen or their Secretaries to be fully acquainted on the operation of a means of obtaining assistance from the various funds at our disposal. The idea of Sub-Branches having an imprest account of £10 is sound except in one respect. It would not make for uniformity of grants, though we admit that it would be quite impossible to draw up a scale of uniform grants.

It would be a step in the right direction if all grants were made by one body—then we would be approaching the goal of uniformity.

WELFARE AND HOW IT OPERATES

When we consider that New Zealand as a whole is internationally classed as a "Welfare State," it may be that some explanation of how our part in this field of humanitarian work fits into the whole national scheme. There was a time when the poorer classes who could not afford burial expenses were buried in a separate block of a cemetery. These were known as "Pauper" graves. The fear and horror of the prospects of finally finding a resting place in a paupers grave, was a stimulant to many people to provide for a reasonably respectable burial in a block of the cemetery other than the area set aside for paupers, by taking out life insurance and by the practice of thrift and saving, and to provide

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against poverty in their old age.

Happily this era is not known to the younger generation, as these conditions do not exist today; but "pauper" funerals were common enough when W.W.I veterans were mere lads. Pensions of half a century ago were something to be avoided like the plague or leprosy. It's a pity the word cannot be completely removed from our language; however, the word "pension" has a new meaning in these days, and as time goes on, people will not know that once upon a time (and not so very long ago) a person on a pension was one to be pitied or even frowned upon, particularly if he appeared to be fit for work—irrespective of his age. It's a long step forward from those days to our present set-up when citizens on unlimited incomes receive the family benefit and universal superannuation without a means test, and provision is made for adequate "pensions" for those who are sick, those unfit for work and for those who are sixty years of age or over that age.

Generally speaking, we are not concerned with the rights or wrongs of members of the community on high incomes receiving the family benefit and universal superannuation; but we are gravely concerned for those of our members who are on the lower income scale. We are concerned for those of our members who are, through war service or sickness, unable to earn the allowable income of 30/- per week for a married couple.

For the past 39 or 40 years the activities of Returned Services Associations and annual conference of N.Z. R.S.A. have been mainly directed to the welfare of its members. Apart

from Rehabilitation—which in itself is welfare, though not generally classed as such—welfare has probably received more time and attention of R.S.A. executive committees than have all other phases of R.S.A. affairs combined.

It may be wondered why all this effort has been necessary. Successive Governments have been wary of granting higher pensions and allowances to returned men for fear of upsetting the economy of the country, and by fear also, perhaps, of what the future may hold, and of the country's future capacity to meet higher pensions, etc.; but the R.S.A. has been firm in its demands for pensions to be on a scale in keeping with current living costs.

In 1918 the war disability pension was £2 per week—today it is £4 per week. Surely R.S.A. demands have not been unreasonable. But welfare does not start and finish with disability pensions. Not all returned men who suffered war wounds receive a war disability pension; though many, after years of civvy street, are convinced in their own minds that their present general ill health is attributable to war service. There probably are grounds for such beliefs. In such cases it is almost an impossibility to obtain a pension for these men; mainly because the Pensions Department is not easily convinced that war service is directly responsible; but if an old war wound gave trouble to an ex-serviceman not on a pension—we believe a disability pension could be obtained for him. However, it is generally accepted that the rigorous life in trenches, gun pits, fox holes, etc., has had a direct detrimental effect on the health of many returned men which is becoming evi-

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dent many years after active service. It is argued that the rigours of active service has reduced the expectancy of life by five years and some effort has been made to obtain for returned men social security benefits five years sooner than they would normally be entitled to same. To prove this contention, N.Z.R.S.A. asked three Associations to collect data on the early demise of returned men, as a first step in their approach to the Government in this matter—should the data produced warrant such action. There is certainly ample proof that many of our members are unfit for permanent work—mostly, of course, W.W.1 men, many of them being unable to do any work whatsoever.

In many cases, these men have not been able to save enough money to pay for their homes. It is not forgotten that they had to pay doctors' fees, for medicine, maternity fees and hospital fees, and they did not receive State grants to bring up their families. It is also remembered that the period ranging from four to six years, which our members gave in the service of their country at this time in their lives was a critical period—a time when most young men commence saving for the day of their marriage—or branch out on a business or farming venture. Opportunities lost through war service have definitely left their mark in the lives of members—more particularly those ex-servicemen of W.W.1; but South African Veterans, W.W.2 Veterans and our K-Force members all have their individual welfare problems. War service also had its ill effects on a number of members who found themselves either unable or unwilling to settle down in civil life as good citizens. Now we find a group—happily small in relation to the grand

total of returned men—who wander from place to place from R.S.A. to R.S.A. generally making themselves a liability to the Association in whose district they happen to find themselves. These "travellers" are a source of concern to R.S.A. Secretaries; but it is never forgotten that they too once served their country. Perhaps that service was too great a burden for them. Welfare then, covers a multiplicity of complex cases—it covers the welfare of all our members, whether in the shape of rehabilitation, pensions, housing, employment, temporary loans, free grants, advice, monthly allowances, hospital visiting and a host of other social problems.

Welfare, commonly regarded as financial assistance, is available to all our members. It is naturally essential that the Committee dealing with welfare matters is fully and correctly informed of the applicant's financial position; but it is not necessary for an applicant to completely spend his life's savings before being granted assistance.

In many cases we have found that members could have been assisted earlier had their circumstances been made known. Funds are available for those in need; but the need must be established. Members are urged to report cases of members who require assistance; but who are reluctant to come forward. All welfare cases are dealt with sympathetically and confidentially. Funds that are available for welfare purposes are spent judiciously, but generously, so that our members may be in a little better financial position than if they were receiving the bare Social Security benefits available to non-retained men.

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CRICKET

During the past two or three seasons, only two cricket matches have been played between Branches and the Executive Committee each season.

It couldn't be that Branch members feel unequal to the task of breaking a Kitching-Wanden partnership or of defending their wicket against the deadly uncertainty of Jim Bell's "wrong-un" that has made them timorous—or could it?

East Coast Branch was given the Archibald trophy to hold as a token of goodwill and encouragement to Branches; but dressing room rumours have it that the Executive team will in future insist that neutral umpires will officiate in all matches this year.

Picton, Rai and East Coast are the only Branches which have been game to try conclusions against the Executive; but there is no reason why Flaxbourne, Awatere, Havelock and Renwick could not also give a good account of themselves. Are Kalkoura members too busy with their cray traps on Sundays? Sounds are interested and if they would approach Max Godsiff, I think a day at St. Omer could be arranged. Executive would not object to a few "ring-ins" and after all, wasn't the big idea behind these games, to foster goodwill between the Executive and Branches and to allow us to mingle freely and unrestrained with our wives and families—and you with ours—in a picnic day of care-free cricket. Let's get some games arranged.

FLAGS

Acting on the suggestion of Dominion Executive Committee of N.Z. R.S.A., this Association has decided

in favour of flying the N.Z. Ensign on the following days. It is recommended that where practicable Sub-Branches also follow this procedure: Her Majesty's Accession Day:

February 6

St. Patrick's Day: March 17

Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen: April 21

St. George's Day: April 23.

Anzac Day: April 25

V.E. Day: May 8

Empire Day: May 24

Coronation Day: June 2

Sovereign's Birthday:

First Monday in June

Birthday of Duke of Edinburgh:

June 10

Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen

Mother:

August 4

V.J. Day: August 15

Dominion Day:

Fourth Monday in September

Armistice Day: November 11

Birthday of Prince Charles:

November 14

St. Andrew's Day: November 30

Provincial Anniversary Days (by towns situate within particular Province).

BOWLING

Marlborough R.S.A. Tournament

January 21st is the day fixed for the annual tournament to decide which four will represent the Association at Westport on 17th and 18th March.

Entries close with the Secretary, M.R.S.A., P.O. Box 38, Blenheim, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, 14th January. Entries with entrance fee of 7/6 per member (30/- per four) must be paid

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by 5 p.m. on 14th January and made on entry form, which is obtainable from the Secretary.

R.S.A. members of all Bowling Clubs are cordially invited to enter for this tournament.

Late entries cannot be accepted.

The terms of entry for the N.Z. Tournament are as follows:—

(1) Each Association affiliated to the N.Z.R.S.A. which desires to be represented at the N.Z.R.S.A. Bowling Championship **must conduct an elimination tournament.**

(2) The team winning the local tournament shall receive the N.Z. R.S.A. Silver Badges as district winners. Each Association shall forward capitation fees for each financial or South African War Veteran playing in the local tournament, at the rate of 1/3 per member.

(3) The minimum number of fours to compete in a local elimination tournament shall be 20 teams so that the minimum capitation from each local association shall be £5. It is realised that at the present time some local associations will not muster 20

teams and in order that they will not be penalised while the tournament is in its infancy the difficulty can be overcome in two ways.

(a) By a local association amalgamating with a neighbouring association, or

(b) By conducting a tournament with a smaller number of entries than 20, but forwarding the capitation for 20 teams, i.e. £5.

(4) To make the tournament more successful and to help the larger centres who are contributing more towards the success of the tournament than some of the smaller associations, it has been decided that any association that has large entries, such associations may send to the N.Z.R.S.A. Tournament one team for every 35 rinks entered.

★

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A MEMBERS' RAMBLINGS ON A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Lovely Melbourne is a fair city of spacious parks, pretty gardens, tree-lined streets, solid stone buildings and happy sociable people.

We were very welcome here; the people, the routine, even the weather was very like our homeland.

"Anzac House" at the top of Collins Street, is the headquarters of the R.S.L. in Victoria; the Australian Federal R.S.L. headquarters is also in Melbourne.

We were living at the Hotel London during our week's stay; we usually climbed into bed late at night and always with the same thought—"what a night it's been." There are numerous Service Clubs within and about the city, and we visited many of them. One is appropriately named—and old 1914-18 diggers will appreciate this—it is named "Duckboard House."

I saw Flemington Racecourse, Caulfield Racecourse where Rising Fast just headed off the local Ray Ribbon the other day in the Caulfield Cup.

We went sightseeing every day—every morning an Australian would call for us either with a bus, or two or three cars. One day's run was out to "Sorrento" almost at the very south eastern tip of Australia—a lovely drive through many small seaside resorts, right round the coast to the entrance of Port Philip Bay. That night we were guests at "Caulfield Central Club." It was here that I saw the biggest crowd in a Club; probably four to five hundred members and all doing their best to enjoy themselves—it was with difficulty that we got back to our hotel about midnight.

Two or three days before Anzac Day, I went out to "Footscray," this being a city within the City of Melbourne. I had the pleasure of giving the Anzac Address to eight hundred and sixty girls of the "Footscray Girls' College." Later I was royally entertained by the staff.

We New Zealanders had the great privilege of sitting in at a State Luncheon tendered to us by the Government of Victoria, and held in Parliament Buildings. It was most enjoyable, the company was good, the luncheon excellent. We were also the guests of the Lord Mayor and his Councillors at morning tea in the City Council Chambers. This was a highlight and much difficulty was experienced by some of our boys in trying to find their way to our hotel only a block away, and in broad daylight.

We also attended a dinner given in our honour by the Australian Service League in Anzac House; this was a very representative gathering, many of those present were the Officers of Servicemen's Organisations, sporting bodies, the press, etc. For me it was rather an ordeal as it fell to my lot to be the guest speaker.

The "Shrine of Remembrance," is a breath-taking, majestic memorial erected by a grateful people to the honoured memory of the men and women who served their Empire. It stands on a sloping knoll two hundred feet above sea level and is visible to all ships as they approach the city—also from many parts of the city itself. Beautiful grounds surround the Memorial making it stand out as if to remind those who pass by that "this is hallowed ground."

In the hush and gloom of a cold wet morning we attended the Dawn Service at the "Shrine," a few matches flared—a few cigarettes glowed as we awaited zero hour and as the signal light high up in the tower shone out, cigarettes went out and more than 6000 men and women stood to attention as the Last Post sounded, sounded as it had done on those bleak shores of Gallipoli forty years before. In the afternoon we paraded as a New Zealand detachment in the never-to-be-forgotten march to the Shrine, together with our 100,000 ex-servicemen, through the streets lined by more than 300,000 people.

I personally feel that our Australian brothers show more feeling on Anzac Day than we in New Zealand.

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THE BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club got away to a flying start in October and its members are all looking forward to a happy season. In bowls, the result means very little—the recreation and the companionship are the things that count and our chaps lack nothing in these respects.

Gilbert Gardiner and his band of willing helpers have the green in great nick and Les Shannon and his off-siders have the surrounding gardens almost putting Seymour Square to shame.

On Labour Day, the local boys went "over the hill" to play the Nelson R.S.A., and, although they were defeated, they were by no means disgraced. On Anniversary Day, the Marlborough Diggers' Tournament was played on your green and, as the result of the four rounds played, George Catley, Russ Jellyman, Doug Anderson and Bill McNabb turned out to be the best lead, two, three

and skip respectively. Congratulations to the four of you!

The bowlers know that a lot of returned servicemen would derive no end of pleasure and entertainment by taking up the game and would like to have you out on the green with them. So what about telling one of them that you would like to have a "roll-up" and try your hand out? There are more people in New Zealand playing bowls than any other sport which proves it is not the "old man's game" a lot of us used to think it was. Remember that the Bowling Green is another amenity of the Club which you can enjoy so "come up and see us sometime" and we can assure you, you will never regret it.

The members of the Bowling Club would also like to take this opportunity of extending to all members of the Association, all the very best to you and yours during the festive season and throughout the coming year.

HUGH DUNCAN, President.

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BILL WAINWRIGHT'S NIGHT OUT

Just before Paschaendale the British began concentrating something like half a million troops in the Poperinghe area. About 60 to 70 New Zealand details out of hospitals, and returning leave men, were billeted in a cinema with its yard in the Rue de Chiens (Street of the Dogs). Fritz started his strafe at just 8 p.m. as the estaminets were emptying all troops. Three of us were crossing the big square when the aerial armada started. I remember seeing scarlet and orange explosions on my left as we made off to our billet and people began screaming. Bricks and mortar dust were flying about as we left the square and turned down a narrow street. Our estaminet seemed full of Aussies—my two mates dived inside. I dived under a high brick wall behind which towered a large church with a half circle torn away from the tower, by a shell. Plane after plane came over in relays until 2 a.m. without a

break. A Tommy came and laid under the wall alongside me. We never thought then, that we'd ever meet again, though we did.

After a while during a lull, I sprang up and ran across to the estaminet and got my mates. Just as we were getting home Fritz dropped one inside a brewery yard opposite our billet. It took two doors off the wagon shed and smashed them into splinters on a brick house next to our billet. This hymn of hate went on for several nights. Three dropped in our yard and over twenty men went west. We got out of Poperinghe, and on the west side in the fields, found some old trenches in which were bivvies. We three crawled in. In the bombardment Fritz had caught a Chinese Labour Battalion and got—I believe—87 with their wire compound destroyed. I believe they spread for miles. The Tommy Mounted Red Corps had a strenuous time doing a muster. Some found our posse and as these dens were only three feet high, we three had crawled in and laid flat. Inside was

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pitch dark, of course. Three Chinks crawled in on top of us, all of them suffering from severe fright. We roared and stormed and bellowed, but could not shift them, because we were flat on our backs. But the beautiful fragrance of Indo-China which came off the citizens of Saigon, who had just run 2 kilometres with fear oozing out of every pore was something to remember. You can only get it “Somewhere East of Suez,” where a man can raise a thirst.

During my discharge leave, I came down to London on my way to Torquay in the Flying Scotsman. My seat mate was a Tommy, and we talked of various parts of the line we had been in. He said the Poperinghe air raids before Paschaendale were awful and one night he crawled under a high brick wall under a church, with a shell through the tower, and he laid alongside a New Zealander. Did we look—what a coincidence.



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UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

On the 9th November, a total of 490 members were unfinancial, for the current year, or for a longer period. At the same time 1590 members had honoured their obligation to the Association by paying their subscriptions. This figure is roughly equal to last year's total, and with approximately four and a half months of the present year ahead of us, we are likely to equal last year's all-time record.

But the position with our unfinancial members is not satisfactory—it never will be until every returned man in the district pays his current subscription when it falls due, i.e. on the 1st of April in each year.

Our members who treat the payment of their subscriptions lightly should be reminded that as an Incorporated Society, the Association has the power to sue for overdue subscriptions. In the case of resignations the Association could sue for all unpaid subscriptions and demand the return of the member's badge.

Drastic action of this nature has so far not been taken or considered by the Marlborough Association; but it could be an idea! It could also be an idea to publish the names of unfinancial members in Loophole or to place lists in the Clubhouse of those who disregard our appeals.

We do appeal and we repeat our appeals to the few, so many times that our patience becomes at times a little strained. We have been generous in that we have not insisted on or asked for the full payment of arrears.

We can only repeat our appeal to unfinancial members to renew their subscriptions without delay.

RAI VALLEY NOTES

The Rai is a happy place these days. Broad smiles adorn the faces of the cockies for it is Spring. The long arduous Winter day of Maori P.T. are over and there is zest in their step. These are the days of full buckets, inflated bank balances and over inflated cows. An occasional

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one sails down the river.

Feverish activity was observed at the factory one morning several weeks ago. It looked as if the boiler was due to go up any moment. Great clouds of steam issued from the can washer and the loud clang of empty cans was heard. It was the opening day of the whitebait season.

Two trucks, their loading completed, pulled up outside a shop in a manner that would have delighted Mr Dunlop. The rasp of hand brakes being hastily applied, and the two drivers leapt from the cabs and entered. They emerged a few minutes later, parcels under their arms, in gloomy conversation. They were joined by a third. "It's no use," said one, tossing his parcels into the cans, "there won't be a fritter left by the time we arrive."

"Aye," said another, "he wields a very cunning net."

"You must admit though," said the first ditto, "he deserves his catches, he's very keen."

"Keen," bellowed a newcomer, "I'll say he's keen, "by the time he's fished

out a creek, there's no bloody water in it."

CAN YOU MAKE YOUR "SPIT" BOUNCE

Phil Parcell came from Bannockburn Central Otago and served in W.W.I A .303 bullet entered the back of Phil's neck and lodged perilously near his jugular vein. The Doctors thought fit not to operate; but to watch any movement of the bullet. Phil would be X-rayed and given ten days leave, when he would make for Bannockburn in Scotland to enjoy the Scottish air and hope that the bullet would steadily move from its dangerous position. After one of these Scottish trips, Phil was returning to London for his periodical X-ray examination. He was accompanied by a Yank sailor on the Flying Scotsman, when Phil had a violent fit of coughing. Suddenly and with unexpected violence, the bullet shot from Phil's mouth and bounced on the carriage floor. He jumped from his seat to recover it, while the Yank

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sat spellbound. When things settled down, he found his voice, "Waal," he said, "I've heard of a guy making his spit bounce; but that's the first time I've seen it done."

KAIKOURA NOTES

Our R.S.A. ball was quite a success this year. Held in the new hall with all the latest facilities it was not half the trouble to prepare for, as it has been in the past years. There was a large crowd present and socially and financially it was quite a success. A lot of thanks are due to the great work of our Ladies' Committee who are a tower of strength to this Branch.

Quite another good turn out was the R.S.A. Golf Tournament held on the Kaikoura Golf Links. Although rain came in the afternoon there were no regrets and everyone seemed extremely happy at the end of the day, especially after Jock Reid opened his mystery parcel that he won in a raffle. Bill Lee gave the day a real touch by bombing players, greens,

clubhouse and spectators with paper bags of flour. Direct hits were no trouble to him. One of our promising young players Nancy Bennington stopped one on the head and sat down smartly, looking cute with white hair. Thanks a lot Bill, you sure can fly a plane. Ken Pitman was also in the air and was a good right hand to Bill.

Our thanks are due to Jack Gould the organiser of the Tourney. Very few know the work that he has done for the R.S.A. Everyone present was pleased when Patron Les Blunt said and did the right thing when presenting a small gift to Jack at the conclusion of the Tournament.

Another pleasant function was held in the Club Rooms recently when the Branch entertained the South African and 1914-18 Veterans at a social evening. Ned Sharplin responded on behalf of South Africans and Gus Ferry for First World War men during the evening. The President, Clive Chapman, presented one of the veterans, Frank Dooley, with a pipe in appreciation of voluntary

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work as doorkeeper for our functions for many years. Music for the evening was supplied by Mr and Mrs Des Aitken, piano and drums, and Murray Sullivan, sax. It was a very pleasant evening and dancing continued until after midnight. A good time was had by all, only Cyril Stack forgot that there were three steps leading down from the back door.

About a hundred assembled at the Garden of Memories on Remembrance Day to observe two minutes silence. Wreaths were laid on the memorial steps by the Vice-President of the R.S.A. and the County Chairman. Afterwards a service was held at the Presbyterian Church and in the evening at the Anglican Church.
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Husband: "You will never succeed in making that dog obey you."

Wife: "Nonsense. It is only a matter of patience. I had a lot of trouble with you at first."

★ ★

To be clay in the hands of a woman can hurt, if it means that a man's to be treated like dirt.

★ ★

Red Army Private: "It's a rotten government."

Red Army Sergeant: "You're under arrest. Come on."

Private: "But I didn't say which government."

Sergeant: "Come along. You can't wriggle out of it like that. You know as well as I that there's only one rotten government."

A cowboy wearing an enormous flashing gem was asked by an awe-struck friend: "Is that diamond genuine?"

"If it ain't," the cowboy drawled, "I sure been beat out of a dollar and a half."

★ ★

An egotist is a guy who is always me—deep in conversation.

★ ★

Remember, when you take the wheel, this bit of commonsense: A tree will hit an automobile, but just in self-defence.

I hear a man went crazy arguing with his wife. Brother, the rumour isn't true. He was crazy to start with, or he wouldn't have done it!

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