

Marlborough
RETURNED SERVICES
ASSOCIATION

Loophole

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN
of the
MARLBOROUGH RETURNED SERVICES ASSN.

Vol. 6. No. 1.

December 1958

Christmas Greetings

At this Season of the Year the President, Executive Committee, Secretary, Clubhouse Manager and Staff join in wishing our many members, friends and the people of Marlborough who have so generously supported us, the Season's Greetings. May you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.



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Presidential

It is with pleasure that, on behalf of your executive, I am able to announce that we have at last made a big step forward towards our new clubhouse. As we all know only too well, there has, over a period of years, been a great deal of drawing of plans and investigation going on. There have been a great many difficulties to overcome, and even though we have reached the stage of accepting a tender, there still lies ahead more difficulties, and we will be faced with a great deal of disruption for a time during our re-building.

Those of you who attended our last annual meeting will recall my statement that this year would see our new clubhouse, and there would be only one thing that would stop it, and that would be finance. Although splendid efforts have been made to build up our building fund, the word "finance" is still our big problem. To those who have assisted in many ways, may I say "thank you." To those who have made promises and others who are contemplating, may I suggest that now is the time to take action and so assist your executive to finalise the financing of our new home.

Now, for the information of you all, may I briefly outline our position and make a few remarks. At present we have approximately £13,000 in the building fund. This amount accrued from interest-free debentures, profits from trading a/c, raffles, rose days, Anzac concerts and various other efforts. In addition, we will be able to obtain from a lending institution a further sum of £5000, making a total of £18,000 with which we can start working. The tender accepted is some £21,800, plus over £2000 for central heating. In addition to this there will no doubt be some extras to contend with, plus the cost of demolition of the old building. After that, we will have to furnish our new club-house. In view of this, may I once again appeal to all members for their financial assistance.

We received six tenders for the job, the lowest being about £21,800 and the highest about £28,000. After serious consideration your executive decided to accept that of Messrs Airy Bros. of Greymouth. This acceptance has in some cases caused comment, and perhaps some explanation is required. The next tender was £1500 higher and this was put to the special general meeting in October for some guidance, and it was the feeling of the meeting that in view of the difference, the lowest tender should be accepted. While the successful tenderers are strangers to the building trade in Blenheim, they are a firm of high repute and already have interests in Marlborough. They are, I believe, in any case, moving their business from the Coast to Marlborough

and they are Returned Servicemen. In addition, sub-contracts which account for a large percentage of the contract price, will be undertaken by local established firms.

Your executive has given careful consideration to the matter before making a decision. Now that this decision has been made, it is up to all of us to assist in every way possible to complete our new clubhouse and give our Association and the town generally something that we can be really proud of.

The reason why I have made these comments is to try to let you see the picture as it appears to those who have closely studied the pros and cons, and to answer certain critics.

May I, then, once again appeal to all members to give or lend as freely as possible to our venture. Your secretary, whose pen is more able than mine, has also written an article on our building, and I ask you to read it carefully.

I must not conclude without extending my personal good wishes to one and all for a very merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

W. J. PERKINS, President.

Secretary's Notes

Today is 5th November, the anniversary of the gunpowder plot; but I'm not going through all that again. Today is the day I've been anticipating for the past five long years, looking longingly for in fact, when we would issue instructions to our architect to proceed with the new clubhouse rebuilding scheme. These instructions were in fact issued today. Press publicity will make this fact known to you all tomorrow, some three weeks before you read these notes.

To me, today is something of a climax. Some five years ago, when the real frowsiness of our clubhouse became apparent through exposure to public view by the removal of stop-banks and hedges, we awoke to the fact that something would have to be done about our decrepit appearance. Plans were made for the expenditure of three thousand pounds on a face lift. We would have had a better office, better living quarters and our outside appearance would have been more attractive; but members would have received nothing in improved amenities. The face-lift plan died hard if indeed it has really died. Sketch plans featuring "L" shape building, plans for two-storey building, plans for single storey building, plans within and beyond our financial capacity were drafted by many budding architects, without cost except the cost of delay.

Hard thinking, sometimes hard words, changing committees and our changing financial position have all contributed to delays; but from all this we have emerged with plans which will give all sections of club activities better facilities, with better outside appearance and what is more important, a building within our capacity to pay for. There were times when it appeared that too much effort was being made to provide facilities for one section of our members while other sections would suffer. As a billiards enthusiast, it could be easy for me to forget that bar patrons really do need "elbow" room. An indoor bowler may be forgiven for not

knowing the needs of the small-bore shooters, and outdoor bowlers may be forgiven for not knowing the size of an indoor bowling mat.

It is now felt that though all may not have all they would wish, all will have ample space for their particular activity.

With a new clubhouse, it will be possible to add to the facilities available to members. For instance, it will now be possible to introduce table tennis in the winter months. Perhaps some enthusiast could start thinking about this suggestion, and other suggestions will be welcomed. All will suffer from inconvenience during rebuilding. It is hoped that members will give all the support possible to the club while we are in temporary quarters.

We will need the full support and tolerance during rebuilding operations, from all our members, and afterwards we can expect greater support from those who do not now attend the club. It should be known to all that for some time now we have had in operation a cooling room with efficient plant, the most modern and hygienic glass washing machine and only the best lines are stocked.

If the service has not always been the best, space has been the chief deterrent. There has not been enough room in the clubhouse to accommodate the increased attendance during past months.

Six months should see an end to this condition. Meantime—and during the next three months—we require the maximum financial assistance from members, firstly by their fully supporting all our activities. We require the fullest support for the present raffles. Many members have bought two books of tickets, feeling that their action is a token donation. We know of one member with at least two hundred tickets, and of other members with eighty to a hundred tickets. At certain functions like the A. & P. Show for instance, we are left with part sold books and these tickets are being put up in envelopes of twenty tickets (£1) and sold to members. We can supply complete books of tickets or tickets from a number of books; but remember we're asking for your full support of these raffles.

Many members have promised to buy interest free debentures, but to date have not done so. Their names have been published in previous issues of Loophole. It is felt that now is the time for these promises to be ratified. We know they will be.

In addition to the above, it will be necessary to raise further sums by special efforts, and to borrow by issuing interest bearing debentures. We have said previously that the Association is capable of repaying all debentures and loans; but it is patent that if members invest in a £10 interest free debenture, there will be no need to raise interest bearing loans, and members' debentures will be redeemed at a much faster rate. Please give this matter your very earnest consideration.

Some time ago, was it in September? we enclosed a circular with Loophole asking members to let us know if they were prepared to lend sums of £100 and over and at what interest rate they would expect. We had one generous offer. As a committeeman or as an administrative officer of the Association, would you regard very highly such a response? We require a further £4000 before the end of March next. Are we going to sit on our tails and see a few, a mere handful of enthusiasts, struggling to raise the sum by organising raffles, making themselves very humble on occasions in fact, when we have very many members who could with very little effort and with very little effect on their living standards phone the office and intimate their willingness to invest not less than £100 in our new building. We still have about one thousand members who have not yet invested in a ten pound interest free debenture. If only four hundred of these members came forward promptly with their tanner we could ease these humble appeals. I'd like to mention two W.W.I veterans who, though crippled to

a painful degree with, in one case a war disability and arthritis and the other with arthritis of such a degree that he has been fitted with steel hinges to alleviate pressure on hip joints. Both require one and sometimes two walking sticks to assist them to walk. Both have very great difficulty in negotiating the slight rise to enter the clubhouse. Neither can take part in any club activity and their only calls at the clubhouse are confined to office visits. Neither is receiving any financial assistance from R.S.A. These two very highly respected members have been to me on not less than three and four occasions to obtain raffle books which they have sold, returned the cash and butts and taken further supplies of books which have been sold. This is not just another of your Secretary's sob-stories; it is cold hard fact. On the other hand, I have mentioned that about one thousand fit members capable of contributing £10, have not as yet done so. I have every confidence that they or the majority of them will do so now that a start is being made on the new building. I have humbled myself in making these constant appeals for funds for several years now, and I want you to know that this will be my last appeal to you. If further appeals are to be made, we have good men on the committee who will make them. Already we have a new Editor for this magazine we chose to call Loophole. Ralph Cocklin is taking over the reins and is now in the driver's seat with whip in hand and foot ready to release the brake. If you don't get some rollicking barnacle bollardy bull from Ralph, I'll be surprised, for he is the ex-tar, ex-gob, ex-matelot type, christened with salt spray, cut his teeth on anchor chain, was reared on salt pork and pea soup and educated in the school of hard knocks—all of which have qualified him for the job in hand.

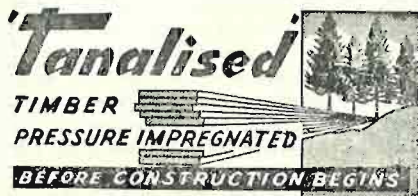
He'll never be fogged and has not been known to be bar bound.

Coming up Maxwell Road recently, my wife heard a very small boy say to his mother, "What's a nothing, Mum?" Mum replied, "She's not a nothing, she's a Nun, Son". It's just one of those little human things that we see and hear daily, such as the discussion that took place in the club kitchen recently. Hilda appealed to me to support her argument with Les to have a 'phone put in their new house. I told her a 'phone was an expensive luxury—no need for one, I argued—and now that she is refurnishing she must cut down on extravagance and cut out buying a new frock each week. Hilda protested that she had already cut out frocks; but was cut short by Les who hopped in with, "She's cut out frocks alright; but hasn't got them stitched yet."

Frank Horton tells of his amusement when a W.W.I professional acquaintance (a mere 76 years of age) heard of the death of a friend aged 97 years. The old boy quipped, "Why, I've only another 21 years to live." (Sec., We sincerely hope you make it, Bill.)

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We all read of a case recently, where a Tasmanian got into some trouble and it was claimed in official quarters that this man had won the Victoria Cross during W.W.I. We forgot the case, until a Government official phoned the office to check on this point. A few minutes later I was able to say definitely that no man of this name is recorded in Whitakers as having won the V.C. A figment of the imagination, perhaps, or maybe he has changed his name; but in any case, it all goes to prove that it is not always wise to accept everything told to us without reservation.

This raises another contentious subject, that of applications for membership of R.S.A. Too many are prone to accept the word of prospective members that they are eligible for membership. The onus is on the prospective member to prove his eligibility—not on us—although we will assist when and where we can. These elementary questions should be asked:

“Did you serve in the allied forces in a war waged by the Crown?”

“Did you go overseas during war?”

“Have you a clean discharge from the forces?”

The final acceptance to membership can only be made when backed by documentary proof, such as sighting of discharge, the award of medals, etc. Those who wear the R.S.A. badge jealously guard against its unauthorised use, as we frown on bogus claims of military decorations.

Oh dear! how we ramble on. Editor Ralph will have me on the mat if I don't conclude.

President Wal Perkins is writing to you in these columns on various matters; but the keynote on this issue must be “give us the cash, and we'll do the job” if we are permitted to twist a “Churchillian” to the needs of our present and urgent building plans).

SECRETARY.

Reveille As Before

Wrote Kiwi to wife, “Give me old civvy life;
Let the sergeant go jump in the lake,
And be darned to his shout every morning, ‘All Out’,
No bugler will force ME awake.”
But when Civvy Street came, he got up just the same,
Though he hoped to lie in on the sack;
On a cold frosty morning, in pale winter's dawning,
With wife's cold feet on his back.

“Just put me ashore; I'll do nothing but snore,”
Said the Navy-brassed poor matelot,
“And all will be fine, when there's no ‘Rise and Shine’,
With a bed there's no hammock to stow.”
But when free of the wave, and Mum forced him to shave,
Or to rise at the kid's morning yells,
Decision he alters, and longs for Defaulters—
Much better ten days in the cells.

The Air Force looks black when you're fast in the sack,
Enjoying a cold-morning snore,
And the poor snoozing erk comes awake with a jerk,
When he hears the cry “Feet on the floor.”
But whatever your “lurk” in the old Service work,
Never think it a trial and a bore;
For at home you won't sleep, be it little or deep—
It's Reveille the same as before.

H. K. GRUSZNING, 21/3/58.

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Anzac Day Speaker

We are particularly pleased to announce that Mr D. W. Russell, O.B.E. and holder of the N.Z.R.S.A. Gold Star Badge and Certificate of Merit, has kindly accepted our invitation to deliver the next Anzac Day address at Blenheim and Picton.

Mr Russell served in W.W.I and has been an ardent worker for his fellow returned servicemen in Christchurch for many years.

War History 22nd Battalion

The War History Branch advises that the Unity History of 22nd Battalion is now completed. Any ex-member is entitled upon application to receive a free copy. Applicants should state army number, rank and name and give the address to which the book should be sent. Forward

applications to War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

Our Mail Bag

We acknowledge with grateful thanks letters from Padre Taylor from Auckland, who seems to have settled down to a life of ease and luxury in his new-found haven at Remuera. Padre sends his best wishes to his old friends.

From Malaya, Bill (Flt. Lt.) Jackson writes that the spicy aroma of the romantic east isn't exactly what it's cracked up to be. From other sources we hear that Bill is doing a good job with the R.N.Z.A.F. and that he has been getting about a bit—as far as Japan and other eastern countries. Bill has two daughters—and a wife, of course.

From Hamilton, Gordon McCusker sends greetings. He is there till after Christmas.

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Ex-Navalmen's Association

The Association's annual smoko was held on October 18th, there being an attendance of about 60 members.

The toast list was:

The Queen, President, H. Duckworth; Absent Comrades, L. Duckworth; The Services, R. E. Cocklin.

Replied to by: M. Wisheart (Navy), R. B. Clark (Army), R. C. Cooney (Air Force), T. Eckford (Merchant Navy).

Lt. D. Simmonds, R.N.Z.N., who was the guest speaker, gave a talk on "The Whitby Frigate". This was very well received, though one or two diehards apparently had the shudders at the prospect of all welded ships.

Incidental music was supplied by Messrs M. Broadley and B. Wiblin entertained with a conjuring act.

Future events include a fishing trip

which will be over by the time Loop-hole is issued. On December 13th, Father Christmas is to visit the families of members and that night a dance will be held for members at Renwick. It is hoped that members will turn up in force for the dance.

Valedictory

At the clubhouse on Thursday, 30th November, the Executive Committee gave a formal farewell to Mr Sid Angell who has left Blenheim on transfer to Christchurch. At the same time, Mr Waters, his successor as Registrar of Social Security and War Pensions, was welcomed to our midst. Messrs Perkins, Parker, Horton and Tizard spoke of the very helpful co-operation and advice received from Mr Angell in R.S.A. and Patriotic Council welfare matters and wished him success and happiness in his new appointment.

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Lung Cancer

By popular acclaim throughout the world, after extensive experiments over a long period proved beyond doubt that smoking was the cause of lung cancer. This announcement was later timidly challenged by a minority group. Cigarette smoking regained its popularity.

It is now over to the brewers to timidly deny the latest announcement from London, dated July 1st, that beer drinking is a contributing cause of lung cancer.

The N.Z. Minister of Finance must have had early advice of this momentous scientific announcement, when only four days previously he imposed a fifty per cent increase in the cost of our beer. He is protecting us from our own weakness. Now, of course, we have all cut completely the use of beer and cigarettes; but worse is to come. Over the past three years, we in our own quiet way have been carrying out our own scientific investigations and are now in the position to announce that that hoarse whisper over the T.A.B. counter after standing in the rain is the most recently discovered cause of lung cancer. What will Nurdy do now?

A Plea

One of the problems of having a magazine like Loophole is the obtaining of material for it. Naturally, we have our regular contributors and their assistance is very much appreciated. With a membership of 1800 there must be many who could assist with anecdotes, stories or other material. If you have any ideas, leave them with the secretary.

Last Post

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.

- 12/700 H. D. Bell; 2/2585 G. Bowman; K. W. R. Glasgow (Dominion V.P.); 45350 L. O. Heath; S.A.7595 and 24/1996 H. E. Hodson; N.414832 R. P. Merrifield; 117966 W. E. J. M. McCormick; S.A.2532 J. Watson; 243179 J. T. Wilding.

Behind is life, and its longing,
 Its trials, its troubles, its sorrows,
 Beyond 'is the infinite morning,
 With a day without a tomorrow.

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What Cocky Said

One morning recently a young woman

Got out of bed,

Stepped into her slippers.

Got into her robe,

Pulled up the blind,

Uncovered the parrot,

Put on the coffee pot,

Answered the phone—

Said a masculine voice:

"Hello, honey! Just off the Wainunu

I have 24 hours' shore leave,

And I'm coming up—"

So the lady unlocked the door,

Took off the coffee pot,

Covered up the parrot,

Pulled down the blind,

Stepped back into bed.

And heard the parrot mumble,

"Cripest! What a bloody short day
that was!"

New Members

A welcome to our ranks is extended to the following new members who have joined during the past three months, and to those who have transferred to us from other Associations.

72061 E. J. Bedford; 74484 P. G. Devany; 774210 L. G. Hargraves; 16799 C. H. R. Watson; 54048 H. W. Lawes; 9/683 R. Campbell; 75352 I. J. Scabrook; 75602 C. W. James; 2986203 H. P. Williamson; 3500283 S. G. Stacey; 897584 S. A. Walters; 240084 H. W. Hayward; J16874 F. H. Ashton; 42453 G. W. Baxter; 45696 I. R. Sutherland; 50633 H. E. Suckling; 3/2215 G. A. Anderson; 54227 C. J. Coleman; 7/761 P. D. McRae; Fx575511 J. J. Rutherford; 53380 V. W. Talbert; 774718 B. H. Meachen; 489065 W. J. Drummond; NZ74229 A. G. Bignell; 82483 F. Lawson; 5828685 A. E. Cooper.

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Solar Energy

A solar belt (40°S.—40°N.) in which the use of solar energy is possible, extends around the earth.

This belt would certainly include Marlborough in view of its sunshine record and therefore the following information may prove of interest even if not of immediate practical value.

There are 140 research and development centres working on methods of applying this cheap form of energy to practical use and we seem to be reaching the stage where in the foreseeable future many every-day applications will be available.

There are several lines of attack on the problem, Photo-thermal, this has received the most attention. Special reflectors and lenses can be used to obtain temperatures as high as 3,500°C. but other equipment gives lower temperature classes.

In the high temperature bracket would be included research work on minerals, industrial furnaces and the testing of military weapons.

Of more general interest is the middle temperature range. Solar cookers of a simple type can be produced for £5 and with mass production could be produced for £2 or less. These give a temporary range of 350° to 470°F. Some are portable and can be used for heating for picnic purposes.

This type, of course, has aroused much interest in India, Israel, Egypt

and other countries where fuel supplies are poor and expensive. Other uses include driving water pumps for irrigation, running engines and producing electricity; but at the moment most of these latter types are relatively inefficient.

In the low temperature range the users of solar energy are most promising. Solar water heaters are very effective and already 20,000 are in use in the U.S.A. and others have been used in the U.K., France, India, U.S.S.R., Malaya, Israel, Australia and South Africa.

This method is used in the heating and cooling of houses and, although the initial ones built were expensive, the cost in the U.S.A. is now about £4 a square foot, which compares favourably with that of an ordinary house with all year round air conditioning.

The other methods; photo-electric and photo-chemical, are still very much in the experimental line, but these may provide for the storage of energy during non-daylight hours or when insufficient light is available.

Transfer In

20375 P. Poulton; 438434 R. Grenfell; N.13224 B. T. Jacobsen; 4212532 D. B. Thompson; 483652 J. Sim; N.23094 E. W. Woodhouse; A.I.F. 1707 L. Kilkins; P.O.1109422 D. Morris; 17557 W. O. Petty; 18091 R. M. Leonard; 413143 A. McD Stevenson.

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R.S.A. Miniature Rifle Club

What has probably been the clubs most successful year of operations has just concluded.

The standard of shooting has been exceptionally high in all grades. Our president, Bruce Clarke, has created a Marlborough Association record which will be hard to beat, scoring a "possible" every night.

In the Marlborough Small Bore Rifle Association inter-club series, R.S.A. won in the "A" and "C" grades and narrowly missed out in the "B" grade, and in the championship shoot, held on 23rd August, another of our members—G. Young—became the "A" grade champion. Nice work, George.

On the 20th September, a new match on our programme was instituted. This match, between members of Nelson and Marlborough R.S.A., will become an annual contest held

alternatively on Nelson and Marlborough ranges. As host, we matched a fourteen-man Nelson team at the Vernon range; shooting began at 11 a.m. and at 300, 500 and 600 yard ranges. The Marlborough team had run up a 100 point lead at the end of the shoot, thus becoming the first holders of the "Tin Hat Trophy". A condition of the shoot was that "no slings to be used" and this led to a few surprises when the scores were signalled. The weather was kind—in fact, perfect, with a light breeze blowing. Visitors were entertained in the evening at the R.S.A. rooms when several members of the Indoor Bowling fraternity came along and organised a couple of mats. Interest in bowls by onlookers was matched players and an "indoor" shoot was also in progress. A light supper was provided about 10.30 p.m., ending a pleasant day's outing.

What a pity we haven't a keen amateur photographer as a member.

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A snap of the expression on a certain "C" grade member's face when he bogged 100.9 for a first possible would be worth seeing. Also the expression on the face of the "A" grade shot whose "scoper" told him that with nine away and eight inners, he had put his tenth on a spare target below! The scoper proved it by producing the spare card with one shot on tenth. The marker proved the scoper wrong and he, with smile on face, produced a four inch nail!

Yes, looking back it's been a grand season and I'm sure members are looking forward to next season when it is hoped we will have our new range and meeting rooms.

Trophy winners for the year 1958 are as follows:—

"A" grade championship—The Parker Cup, to D. W. B. Clarke.

"A" grade handicap—the S. Jensen Cup, to A. Teece.

"B" grade championship—the C. A. Hadfield Cup, to J. Debney.

"B" grade handicap—the Clarke and Hood Cup, to G. Laing.

"C" grade championship—the R.S.A., M.R.C. Cup, to J. Cromb.

"C" grade handicap—the R.S.A., M.R.C. Cup to B. Whiteman.

The annual match between the R.S.A. and Woodbourne members of the club was again won by the Woodbourne team and they retain the "Woodbourne Cup."

To close: Perhaps, now that these are written, Perc will "get off my back" till next year at least.

House Repairs

Members are informed that under Section 29 of the Social Security Amendment Act, recently passed by Parliament, provision was made for the Crown to bear the cost of essential house repairs, including painting, etc., for eligible age and war beneficiaries, up to £200.

This provision came into force on 1st October, 1958.

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Membership

We are happy to report that the drive for membership has produced good results. Quite a number of our members have come in with an application for members and jubilantly remarked "I've got my mate for '58."

Today, 10th November, we have 1613 financial members, which is about equal to the number we had at the end of December last year. We cannot afford to be complacent when we know that there are still some four hundred returned men in Marlborough, who are at this moment unfinancial.

To really make a howling success of our membership drive, we should really get cracking on the dilatory ones. President Wal Perkins has suggested that our committee be supplied with the names of those who have not yet paid their subscriptions and that they should be contacted by

committeemen in an effort to keep their membership cards in the right and proper cabinets. This suggestion will be carried out. It could well be done by all branch committees. A real effort could bring us in another four hundred members who only require the right approach. With 2000 members (and this is possible) couldn't we laud it over our neighbours "over the hill." Gisborne, South Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Nelson and Invercargill all head us in N.Z.R.S.A. membership ladder. Wouldn't it be fun to bring those boys down a rung or two? It only requires the full co-operation of all branches and all committees together with the aid of those men whom we feel are merely "careless" in allowing themselves to be classed as "unfinancial".

Here are the figures of branches on 18th November, 1958:—

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S.A. Vets. 24, Life Members 21; Blenheim 1039; Kaikoura 126; Picton 170; Awatere 61; Havelock 44; Renwick 34; Flaxbourne 25; Rai Valley 24; Sounds 23; East Coast 22
Total: 1613.

Howlers

Pestilence means a plague, which was the Black Watch (apologies to Scottie).

He received an obituary notice which said he had to leave at once.

The obituary was never very crowded as it was not a place one would ever go.

Fertilisation occurs in the aviary (or dirty work in the duckyard).

Pollination is caused by incest.

Drake circumcised the world in a forty-foot cutter.

They gave William IV a lovely

funeral. It took six men to carry the beer.

Although he has, through evolution learned to walk upright, his eyes still swing from limb to limb.

In the middle of a Highland Light Infantry argument, an officer of the Seaforth's has been heard to say that it was a pity that the Black Watch and the Scots Guards were not forced to amalgamate. The combined regiment would then have been known as the Black Guards or the Scotch Watch.

Courtship is a period during which a girl tries to do better.

The more perfect a man is the more the girls try to altar him.

The older generation thought nothing of getting up at six in the morning. The younger generation doesn't think much of it either.

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Gardening Notes

With the current dry spell the gardener who has followed the book regarding soil preparation and moisture retention will be rubbing his hands gleefully. Phrases such as "dig deeply", "incorporate organic matter", "mulch" and so on, have a real meaning.

The obvious signs of a water shortage in plants are known to everyone. The foliage and sappy parts of the plant wilt and droop. This does not necessarily mean that the soil is unduly dry, but merely that the root system has not the absorbing capacity to cope with the air from the leaves. With adequate soil preparation the plant is able to develop a much more extensive root system and is able to penetrate all the nooks and crannies in the soil where there is available moisture. Organic matter incorporated into the soil acts as a type of sponge, soaking up moisture and holding in reserve for plant needs. A mulch prevents loss of moisture into the air by evaporation from the soil surface and also reduces the soil temperature to a level which is more conducive to good root development.

If watering is still necessary when this article appears in print, don't forget the fruit trees and do bear in mind that one thorough flooding is

worth ten light waterings. Water early varieties first because that maximum fruit development takes place during the six weeks or so prior to maturity.

One grey-haired old gentleman informed the writer of these notes that by acting contrary to advice given in earlier notes he has succeeded in setting a bumper crop of fruit on his apricot. I can't give you any credit, Wally, apricots generally have set well over most of the district this year. In any case, don't count your chickens too soon. Apricots have an unpleasant habit of dropping a few weeks before harvest.

Where the fruit crop is heavy, please thin. Spray will penetrate better, the sun will ripen the fruit better, there will be fewer places for bugs to hide and all in all the prospects of a good crop will be considerably enhanced by breaking up dense clusters.

Outdoor Bowling Club

Although rain overnight prevented play on opening day, the weather since has been perfect for our bowlers. On Labour Day, seven rinks from Nelson R.S.A. Bowling Club came over to play the annual match for the Tin Hat Trophy, which was retained by the local boys who won 175 points to 101.

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The annual all-day tournament for the Harris Rose Bowl was played as usual on Anniversary Day and, after four qualifying rounds, five teams qualified with three wins each. All the games in the post-section play were close and interesting, the eventual winners being Bob Fissenden (lead), Bill Bateman (two), Gilbert Gardiner (three) and Alex Steele (skip), to all of whom we extend congratulations.

The club championships are well under way and members are making full use of the Green in the evenings playing off their matches or putting in practice.

It is still not too late to join the Bowling Club, so if you are interested, contact one of the bowlers and he will take you on the green for a game or two to see what you think of it.

As we stated in the last issue, the Marlborough Returned Services' Association has arranged for the N.Z.R.S.A. bowling championships to be played on the local green in March. A committee comprising R.S.A. members of the local bowling clubs has been working for some months organising the tournament for your Association. The finalists, who will be coming from every part of New Zealand, have to be entertained on the Friday, Saturday and

Sunday nights and, unlike in 1914-18 and 1939-45, we will be unable to go along to the Q.M. Store to draw rations and the committee would be more than grateful for donations of foodstuffs that could be used for suppers on the three occasions. If you would care to make a donation, please ring Dick Wanden (phone 3105) who will advise the Women's Section which has graciously offered to look after the catering side of the tournament.

Remember that this is an "Association" affair and we are eager to show visitors that the Marlborough Association can provide hospitality at least equal to—if not better than—that which they have received in other Centres where the R.S.A. championships have been previously held.

Marlborough R.S.A. Indoor Bowling Club

We again had a very successful season—inter-club matches were played with Ward, Picton R.S.A., Wairau Valley, Blenheim Workingmen's Club, Police and Justice Department, Woodbourne Corporals' Club, Ladies' Section Marlborough R.S.A. and we entered a team in the Saturday night Centre matches. Our

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weekly club night every Thursday, with its get-together friendly roll up of the odd packet of smokes, produces some very keen and hard fought matches and is by far the most popular phase of our activities. It may surprise you to know that indoor bowling has the highest playing membership of any sporting body in New Zealand and is still increasing. Indoor bowls, we think plays a quite important part in our club life, bringing members together in a friendly game that provides an enjoyable relaxation from daily workaday worries. Up to date, with room for only two mats, our playing time and membership has been somewhat restricted; but now that tenders have been let for the building of a new clubhouse, we shall have facilities second to none in Marlborough. Provision has been made for at least six mats and, when this becomes a reality next playing season, we extend to all Marlborough R.S.A. financial members a cordial welcome to come along for a friendly roll up at the grand game of indoor bowls, young or old can all play and you don't have to be a champion. We have no cliques or stacked rinks, this is a sociable, friendly club, and we intend to keep it that way.

We have a small annual subscription of 5/- and 1/- each club night for mat fees to form a pool for new mats, bowls, etc. We know of many

who used to look on and pass derisive remarks; but whom, on being persuaded to have a roll up, have carried on to become some of our most ardent supporters and good players to beat. Ask Norm Herd.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs Trevor Neal and the ladies of her rink, Mrs T. Davies, Mrs Fitzgerald and Mrs J. Fletcher, on their fine achievement in winning the 1958 Marlborough Indoor Bowls Rinks Championship. The semi-finals and finals of our own club championships provided some excellent and hard-fought games. We always knew that Jack Woodham was a skilful bowler and he proved it by bowling the field to win the singles championships.

Ren Drew, a very determined and, on his day, a skilful player, led his merry men to victory in the Rinks Championships. Team, Messrs R. Drew, K. Dyer, W. Perkins and W. Pennington. Our assistant "mine host" to thirsty members in chartered hours, Dave Cruickshank (Davy Crockett to the boys) and Montgomery, his lead, played steady bowls when the tension was on and deserved their win in the pairs championship.

In closing, I would like to pay a tribute to our president, Mr I. V. O. Duncan, affectionately known to us as Sam. He has done a good job, ably conducting meetings and gen-

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cially looking after our interests in many ways. He's a grand sport and I know we all hope he will carry on the good job. Finally, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Shannon for assisting us on numerous occasions and to all who in any way helped to make our season such an enjoyable and successful one.

C. M. J. (Reg) WATSON,
Honorary Secretary,
Marlborough R.S.A. Indoor
Bowls.

Anti-Submarine Warfare

The N.Z. Government is at present considering the form of anti-submarine protection to be used in defence of this country. This is a matter which is likely to concern N.Z. more in the event of a future war than it has done in the past.

Winston Churchill's comment,

"The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril.", could have considerable application to this country. The following extract from the July, 1958, Naval Board Report to Parliament shows that there is an awareness of our need for an effective defensive force.

"During the crisis of the Battle of the Atlantic, Britain's vital sea supply lines were almost severed by a force of submarines which were essentially surface craft capable of submerging; they were rarely able to cover more than 120 miles a day and they were dependent on surface travel not only for their mobility; but also for the stored power which enabled them to submerge. Today, nuclear power has produced the true submarine, a vessel designed to operate entirely submerged. It can travel up to 600 miles a day, its endurance is limited only by that of its

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crew and it can remain submerged indefinitely. Missiles have transformed the submarine's role. They have changed it from a warship designed exclusively for the destruction of shipping to a single unit task force which can be employed against land or sea targets."

In merchant shipping alone, Britain lost 14½ million tons in the last war to a U-boat force which totalled 1158 (783 of these were destroyed). Germany started the war with 74 U-boats. Contrasted with this is a recent estimate of Russia's submarine force of 400-500, the majority of which are post-war craft. Few, if any of these, are atomic submarines; but it is certain that Russia will be producing atomic submarines. Two of these, equipped with missiles carrying nuclear warheads, could wipe out our major centres in one day without

even approaching our shores more closely than 100 miles.

It is doubtful if, in any future war, there will be the time to develop new techniques to the same extent as we did in the last war. Three inventions stood us in good stead almost from the very beginning; asdics, radar and lastly, but far from least high frequency direction finding which gave, from Britain and R.N. ships at sea, a radio fix on every U-boat that started sending its daily Heil Hitler report back to Germany. Modern developments of these are still of great use. Team tactics developed by Captain Walker, R.N. and other escort Group Commanders, which proved as successful, will have been developed to a further peak of efficiency.

Probably the most effective weapon was the combined air-sea weapon and it is to this type of defence we will

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have to look. If one of these partners is nullified by some new technique, the other may still possess effectiveness. Late in the last war the Snorkel device gave new life to the U-boat. Burning tankers could be seen from the coast of Britain and convoys depth-charged their way up the Irish Channel, but even though aircraft lost some of their effectiveness until new inventions restored it, the sea-borne partner still provided an effective protection.

It is a mistake to consider that one arm alone is sufficient in this type of warfare. The Minister of Finance has talked of the Argus aircraft as being a substitute for two further Whitby frigates mainly on the ground of cheapness; but even if this is true financially, the word substitute is hardly suitable. If the country can only afford two Whitbys, obviously that is all we can have, but the aircraft should be regarded as the nec-

essary co-partner in the defensive screen.

In the Whitby frigates we have the most up-to-date anti-submarine ship afloat. They are 370 feet long and displace over 2000 tons with a top speed of over 30 knots and this speed, because of their exceptional seaworthiness, can be maintained in high seas. They are fitted with the latest equipment for locating and destroying submarines, including facilities for directing anti-submarine aircraft.

The gun armament of the Whitbys consists of twin radar-directed 4.5in. gun mountings and a twin barrelled 40mm. anti-aircraft gun. The anti-submarine armament is made up of two three-barrelled mortars, each of which can fire a pattern of projectiles with great accuracy. These are linked to electronic control systems. Two twin and eight single torpedo tubes are also installed. The normal com-

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Old salts will probably lift an eyebrow at the mention of air-conditioning (the electronic equipment needs it) cafeteria messing in a central dining hall, and messes containing bunks which can be used in daytime as padded settees.

Aircraft which have been mentioned as possibilities are the Canadian-built Argus, the Avro Shackleton and the Fairy Gannet.

A few facts about these may prove interesting to the air-minded in view of the Finance Minister's comment on the cheapness of the Argus.

The Argus is a long distance maritime patrol derivative of the well-known Bristol Britannia. The first was built in 1956 and the original order was for eight and rate of production is one a month. The Argus has a wing span of 142ft., an all-up weight of 148,000lbs. and a maximum speed of 350 m.p.h. and endurance of 24 hours. The crew strength is 15.

The Avro Shackleton, a British aircraft, has been designed specifically for anti-submarine work. It carries a variety of weapons, 20mm. cannon (2 nose, 2 dorsal), bombs, torpedoes or mines. It is extremely well-equipped with a/s search gear. The estimated top speed is 300 m.p.h. and the range is 3500 miles. The Shackleton carries a crew of ten.

The Fairy Gannet is primarily a carrier borne aircraft. It carries a crew of three. The engine is a double Mamba turbo-prop, a single

engine being used except at take-off and for combat. The wing span is 54ft. and the all-up weight 17,990lbs. —unloaded, 12,236lbs. The maximum speed is 209 m.p.h. and endurance is about 3½ hours. Possible loads are mines, rocket projectiles, depth charges, bombs, torpedoes and sonobuoys for tracking submerged submarines.

Another possibility which has been mentioned is the fitting of platforms to the Whitbys and their equipment with the anti-submarine helicopters. These have been developed and a high stage of efficiency by the R.N. and U.S.N. and would increase the effectiveness of the Whitbys to a considerable extent. It is hoped that the Government does not get carried away to too great an extent in the search for economy. Cheapness is not a criterion for a weapon of war and if necessary it would be better to wait than to waste money purchasing inferior material.

Commonwealth War Memorial

The new high altar in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, was dedicated on 7th May in the presence of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. This is the only memorial in Great Britain specifically for the war dead of the Commonwealth outside Britain. It commemorates the 335,451 men and women of the overseas Commonwealth who gave their lives in two world wars.

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As the Dean of St. Paul's, Dr Matthews, said, "Too long they have remained without any memorial in the Mother Country, and in particular in this church which houses so many memorials. But now they take their place along with notable men and women who have deserved honour for their courage in battle, for service to their fellow citizens and to humanity."

The cost of the altar's restoration was £20,000 and this was raised by donations.

It's Ginful

The R.A.O.C. Gazette for May contains the following:

"From a wealth of experience the noted philosopher, "Spokeshave", offers the following advice on "The Preservation of Man."

The horse and mule live thirty years
And know nothing of wines and
beers.

The goat and sheep at twenty die,
With ne'er a taste of Scotch or Rye.
The cow drinks water by the ton,
And at eighteen is mostly done.
The dog at sixteen cashes in
Without the aid of Rum or Gin.
The cat in milk and water soaks
And then in twelve short years it
croaks.

The modest, sober, bone-dry hen
Lays eggs for noggs, then dies at ten.
All animals are strictly dry,
They sinless live and swiftly die.
But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men
Survive for three-score years and ten.
And some of us, the mighty few,
Stay pickled till we're ninety-two.

Brevet Club Notes

The main function of the year is the Battle of Britain Commemoration. The dinner on Saturday, 20th September, at Barry's Hotel, was a most successful effort. Thirty-seven members attended; Group Captain

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P. Gainsford was guest speaker. The evening continued afterwards at the Club Rooms.

A few, too few, survivors attended the church parade with about 100 R.N.Z.A.F. personnel on the Sunday. This was held at the Methodist church, the Minister Rev. Harkness officiating.

Tapering-off exercises were held later in the day. (Query. Is a tape recorder evidence?)

On November 29th, Wing Commander Claydon, who was in charge of the Polar Flight, will give a talk and the club Christmas "do" will be held in conjunction with this.

Territorial Army

With the abolishing of C.M.T. and the announced intention of the Government to give additional inducements to Territorials, it is interesting to note that Major General R. Bray, G.O.V., of the 56th London

Division (T.A.) gave the following information.

In the London area the officer strength was up to establishment, but the average strength in other ranks was only 20 per cent of establishment, the average for the entire country being 27 per cent.

The T.A., General Bray emphasised, is a valuable reserve for the unexpected. As such it must be trained for all eventualities as a reinforcement for the Regular Army in limited war or for home defence. Training must be made rewarding and adventurous. The T.A. should be looked on as a "tough hobby" rather as "the best club in the world." General Bray attributed the lag in London's recruiting to the difficulties in making an impact on a very large community. The position would improve as the call up ceased to be a future liability for the potential T.A. volunteer of 17½. Of the volunteers joining the T.A. today, 50 per

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cent were 17½ year olds. They knew they would escape call up by reason of deferment. Twenty per cent were 17½ year olds who joined before they were called up to a preview of military life. Thirty per cent were older men who had already done their national service. By the end of the year, all 17½ year olds would be exempt from call up. That was when we should really see an influx into the T.A.

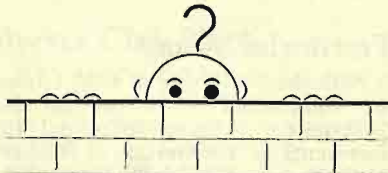
Right Dress!

At the end of World War I, a certain Major, noted as being a little fond of the bottle, took up a fairly large sheep run in the South Island.

He preferred to employ ex-diggers on the property and two of these, let us call them Bill and Jim, were contract fencing on the back of the run. The ground was very hard for digging post holes and progress was very slow until the two took steps to over-

come the difficulty. One fine day the Major decided to see how the fence was going so he rode out to the job. When he arrived, our friends had just finished putting in a long line of posts. The Major rode up to the end of the line and bellowed, "Comp-a-n-y, Shun, Right Dresh. Shte-a-d-d-y." Then turning to Bill and Jim he beamed, "Very Good—Splendid. Congratulate you—Carry on." As he disappeared, Bill spoke, "Cripes' Jim, glad he didn't give Stand at Ease, they're only six inches in the blanky ground."

DICK.



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