

On OUR JOB

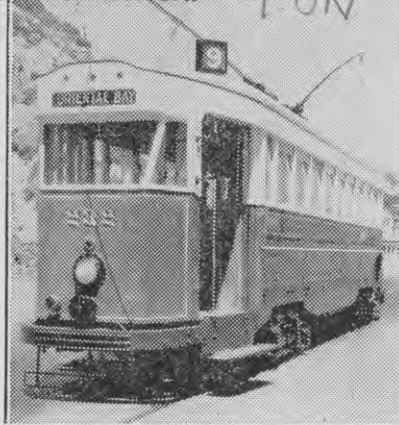
Published
by

Wellington Trammies
for
Wellington Trammies
Serving in the Armed
Forces

No. 6 FEBRUARY, 1944. Wellington, N.Z.

HULLO FELLOWS! Once again we are on the job of letting you know what goes on while you are away. We will also try and let you know, where possible, of other incidents that go on about us. Life here in the Capital City is much the same as usual; you go out shopping armed with a ration book and usually get home dead broke with about a quarter of what you wanted to get. You go into your local grocer, who occasionally whispers in your ear, across the bacon cutter, "Would you like a tin of fruit?" or "Here's your ration of eggs," and hands you a couple of pigeon-like variety. No, we are not grouching or grumbling. Oh, no—we are living in a land of luxury, if we but realise it. One of the latest economies is sausages without overcoats. A pound certainly looks a sodden mess; but still we mustn't worry, as the Food Controller is putting our meat on a ration basis within the next week or so. Speaking of sausages, we lost our "dawg" last week, and it also seems that quite a few of our neighbours have lost their canine friends, too; so I guess I will miss sausages off my ration cards for the next few weeks and hope the position improves somewhat. The only bright spot left here now is the Land and Income Tax Department Building in Courtenay Place, which has been painted a bright red, so I hope you boys arriving home will not confuse it with red lamps districts, etc., for you no doubt will see red, as we did when we got our final assessment notices last week, with 21 days to pay it in. But, why worry, we will be a long time dead. I do hope we have cheered you up with our views of home. Incidentally your letters and various forms of correspondence are reaching us regularly, so don't forget to keep dropping a line; we will welcome it. Before I close I nearly forgot to tell you that we have had a big three-day display in the Town Hall of "Dig for Victory" vegetables. Over thirty-three

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Bus Drivers' Picnic

ON Sunday, February 20, the day we have all looked forward to, duly arrived. It was the bus drivers' annual picnic. The weather was dull early, later turning out beautiful, with a warm sunny breeze. The picnic was held this year at Karori Park, these grounds being an ideal spot for a sports picnic. As is usual with the bus drivers' picnics, it was an excellent success, being run splendidly by the committee, who were a hard-working lot. The programme was run to a time-table without any delays, and reflects the great organising ability of their secretary, George Langley, who carried out his duties so efficiently. Among the spectators were Mr. H. Dunn, Traffic Manager, Mr. Welch, Assistant General Manager, Mr. Liar-det and Mr. Leah.

The attendance was approximately 350 during the morning, but was greatly increased as the day went on, many arriving in the afternoon by cars and trams. Special trams left Seatoun, Island Bay and Miramar at 9 a.m., and

thousand people visited it in that period, no doubt like ourselves, to see why some people have all the luck. Our effort was firstly all washed out with the heavy rain and secondly all died with the drought which followed, for the hosing of gardens was prohibited. Next year, if and when I dig for victory, I am going to cross watercress and waterlilies with carrots and onions. Still, we can't complain; some of us who possess motor cars received a full petrol ration for the Christmas holidays, and we are still getting, weekly, our half pound of butter, so hurry up boys and give Tojo and Adolf the works and come home and get the moth balls out of your trammies' tunics. Be sure to write and tell us what you think of us and our paper.

extra trams were needed when the crowd left the Park at 5.30 p.m., all happy and contented with the thought that the bus drivers know how to put on a picnic.

The children were well catered for with soft drinks, fruit, lollies, ice cream, etc.

We will now endeavour to give you our comments on the principal events during the day:—

Men's 100 Yards "Open" Handicap.—

This was won by Les. Elliott, off three yards, with Vin. Maher and Stan. Stott filling the other two places. It was a big field of 20 or more and many were squeezed back during the sprint home. Don. McLennan was looked upon as a likely winner, but had to give up after going about 70 yards as he could not come through the field. Ted. Adams showed a surprising dash of speed and looked like winning as he was in the lead about 10 yards from the tape, but tripped and fell.

Bus Drivers' Wives, 50 yards.—The winner was Mrs. Hodgkinson, and Mrs. S. Anderson was second. There were only five starters and all got away to a good start, being very even until the last five yards when Mrs. Hodgkinson showed superior speed to win by a yard.

Lady Conductors' Handicap.—This race drew nine starters and was a good one, being won by Miss T. Bull off one yard, with Mrs. Prisk second, also off the same handicap, from Mrs. Robinson, who was on scratch. Miss Bull turned on a great dash over the last twenty yards to win well.

100 Yards Visitors' Open Race.—This event resulted in a dead heat between Ted. Adams and Vin. Maher, with Allen King a close third. This race also drew a large field and it was anybody's race until the last few yards, the judges being unable to separate Ted. and Vin. at the finish. Later, at the prize-giving, Mr. Dunn suggested that they should toss to see who would get first and second prizes, but Vin. Maher very sportingly told Mr. Dunn that he would like Ted. to have first prize, an action which met with very warm approval from the large crowd present.

Adults' Three-legged Race.—This event was run in two heats; George Love and Miss Thorn were first from Les. Elliott and Mrs. Robinson in the first heat, and Len. Bull and Miss Atken were first from Clarrie Bennett and Mrs. Williams in the second heat. The final was won by Len. Bull and Miss Atken from Clarrie Bennett and Mrs. Williams.

Special Challenge Race.—Remember the articles we have written concerning the superiority of either Bob Hayes or Harry Anderson on 50 yards. Well, at last these two "champions" met for the first time in a special challenge race and we owe our thanks to the Bus Drivers'

Committee for arranging this special event. Run in the morning, they got away to a perfect start. Neck and neck down the straight went the colts until the weight told on the bus drivers' hope, and Bob, our Comforts Committee "certainty" went on to win by a couple of lengths. Harry finished gamely, but with the whip applied could make no impression. It was a real good go and both these fine colts were blowing after the race. Previous to the start Bob was last in the birdcage, no doubt trying to keep his opponent on edge, or else he just had a shot of dope which kept him back, as he was right on his toes when paraded before the starter.

45 Years and Over Race.—Both Bob Hayes and Harry Anderson declined to start in this handicap, no doubt feeling the effects of the hard track which they had raced on earlier in the morning. This was a large field and once again it was anybody's race over the last bit. Bert Jessep was leading the field home when they bunched in on him, and he was seen to stumble and fall just short of the tape. We had noticed a certain motorman and a conductor, a couple of our hard shots, close to him at this stage. Of course it may have been accidental, but then again it may have been that someone did not get an extra Sunday recently. The ultimate winner was Ernie Bull, of Newtown night shift, by a head from W. Josephs.

Men's Sack Race.—This race was run in two heats. The first heat was won by D. McLennan from M. Head, and the second heat was won by Fulton from G. Langley. The final was won by Mick Head from Don McLennan.

75 Yards Ladies' Open Handicap.—After a false start they went away evenly. It was a big field and it looked like Mrs. Jeffares winning, but she was just beaten by Mrs. Robinson, who put in a great dash down the sideline to snatch victory by inches. To us, standing behind the tape, it looked more like the start of a Maori haka, as all the ladies had their tongues hanging out.

LADIES' NAIL DRIVING.—Oh, boy, you should have seen some of those fancy shots the ladies employed; it would have made any carpenter green with envy. Miss Brown did a great job of driving the nail home with only four blows. She is indeed a worthy champion.

Men's Nail Driving Sweepstage.—This contest was organised on the grounds, and nails were sold readily for three-pence each, the winner to take all. Trev. Storey collected the stake as his was a worthy effort, for with two mighty blows he sank the nail. Another candidate for the State Carpentry School?

Ladies' Sack Race.—This also was run in heats and the final was won by

Mrs. Jeffares from Miss Atken, Mrs. Jeffares giving an excellent exhibition.

Men's Relay Race.—Five teams lined up for this event, teams being picked on the ground, and all gave a very good display. Vin. Maher's team was the winner and it shows we have some fine speedsters amongst our workmates. The winning team was as follows: Vin. Maher, Len. Bull, Allen King and Jim Parker.

Ladies' Relay Race.—The ladies decided, seeing there was no relay on the programme for them, they would like to give an exhibition, and runners were called for and volunteers were plentiful. It was a good race, the ladies doing 100 yards each, the winning team being Misses Williams, Piper, M. Hayes and Mrs. Christensen.

100 Yards Bus Drivers' Dept.—Off to a good start, they were well bunched, and from the rear of the field Don. McLennan put in some good work to win from Mick Head and J. Ward.

At the conclusion of the day's activities Mr. Dunn, on presenting the prizes, paid tribute to the bus drivers for their splendid day. He said that speaking for himself and also for Mr. Welch, they were always prepared to give any support to these social functions which created such a friendly spirit among everyone, and they would like to see more such occasions. After the presentations, Mr. Welch drew the raffle for a beautiful iced cake, presented by two of our lady conductors, Mrs. Rayner and Miss Lola Edwards, to the Comforts Committee to raise funds for our boys overseas. These ladies are to be complimented on their action and for their work in coming to the picnic to sell raffle tickets for the cake. We have benefited to the extent of five guineas by their splendid action, and we thank them on behalf of all our boys overseas and at home. Also many thanks to the bus drivers who gave permission for the cake to be raffled, especially on their big day of the year, as it shows that even in the midst of a picnic you boys away were not forgotten. Mr. Joe King, Treasurer, replied on behalf of the Comforts Committee and thanked the two ladies and all who had supported the raffle for their generous action.

Lost, Stolen or Strayed

OUR Home Secretary wishes to know if any of you boys ever see or hear of the following. If so, tell them to write to us, or better still, write and let us know of them: K. A. Annabell, E. C. Achilles, Sgt. A. C. Ambrose, W. B. Hamilton, H. A. Ingram, J. E. Jepson, F. C. Larsen, G. T. Mills, G. E. Munro, R. R. Randall, N. Tunncliffe, H. Watson and F. B. Weldon. Should you meet one of these men, please give them your copy of "On Our Job."

Back Home — and Away

THE recent arrival home of a couple of our workmates from the Middle East has reminded us that we have been slipping somewhat in keeping you up to date with recent arrivals and departures, so we will see what we can do to amend this by giving you some dope on the subject. The two to come home on furlough with the second furlough party were A. H. McGuire and J. G. Patterson. Talking to Archie McGuire in the Majestic Theatre recently, he told us the usual thing, that he was very glad to be home again and was looking forward to a good rest for a while. Home on furlough from the Islands are T. P. Troy, A. G. Still, C. N. Wallis and S. L. Tremain, the latter two being in the R.N.Z.A.F. We have also received word that A. A. McLean is coming home, but so far we have received no confirmation, especially the one we are waiting for, to actually see him again.

We don't know if these chaps are going to take the place of the above or not, but recent departures overseas include A. J. Birchfield, W. V. Briggs, W. H. East, R. L. French, A. Hammond, W. G. Jamieson and A. H. Robinson. When we say "recent departures" we mean that they are recent as far as we are concerned, for although several have been away some time it is only lately that we have been able to obtain their address. What we will have to say about that is for their ears only. Another recent departure was Chris. Gosse, who has been home on furlough for some time. What's that, you want to know where they all went? Well, we don't think we will be giving away any secrets to say that Robinson was the only one to go to the Islands. As soon as we can find the time to spare, we have our annual meeting coming off next month and are rather busy just at present, we will give you another of those lists showing you where all the lads are stationed, well, near enough, just at present. Until then, we wish all those who have gone away the very best of luck from their workmates here at home.

"Time-tables."—List of times, arrivals and departures that the public expect you to memorise to save them the necessity of paying threepence for a copy.

Obituary

IT is with deepest regret that we learn of the loss of Conductor J. E. and Mrs. Michel's 14-year-old daughter, Fay Alice, who died in the Wellington Hospital after a short illness. To Jack and his wife and family we offer our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss.

Request Stops

IN spite of reported increased activity among aircraft these days, it would appear from the following that "Old Man Stork" is still flying high and delivering the goods. We are happy to be able to report that daughters have arrived safely at the homes of Lloyd and Mrs. Bardsley and Leading-Aircraftsman C. A. and Mrs. Roskvist, while Ken. and Mrs. Bradbury have received a son. Our congratulations to all of you.

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Motorman Gordon Grant is at present an inmate of the Lewisham Hospital. Gordon, who underwent an operation recently, is making good progress and hopes to be out of hospital within a few weeks.

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The latest motormen to qualify for their 25-year badges are F. Eyre, A. S. Burns and L. Gallagher. Good work, boys.

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Motorman Bill Malin has been off work for some time with pulled muscles in the leg. Bill took part in the old timers' race at the Workingmen's Club picnic recently and suffered this injury as a result. We were sorry to learn of this, as Bill may have turned the tables on some of our budding sprinters who think they have a mortgage on these type of races at our local picnics.

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We have pleasure in announcing that Percy Hansen, our Union Secretary and also Chairman of our Comforts Committee, has been nominated by our Union for the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the New Zealand Federation of Labour, which position becomes vacant in April. When interviewed by us recently, Percy was not at all optimistic as he reckons he will need all the luck in the world, so maybe we will still be able to have him as our Secretary and as our Chairman for some time longer, as he has done splendid work both for the Union and the boys overseas, and will be a great loss to both parties. However, we wish him every success. Rumour also has it that Percy is to be a starter in the "City Council Stakes" and "Hospital Board Handicap." Let's hope he wins this double, as we realise he has excellent capabilities, but Perc. reckons on his form he is only a place bet, so don't forget him on election day. Percy was in a good frame of mind when interviewed, for he had just received his final demand from the Income Tax Department and had good reason to smile as it seemed the last addition to the family a few months ago had wiped out any such payments to be made. We suggested to him that the money he had earmarked for payment to them could be used for his

Orange Blossoms

WE can hear the tinkle of wedding bells in some quarters. The latest to say "I will" is our old friend Bill Ritchie, of the bus drivers. Bill was married on Saturday, February 5, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Willis Street, the reception being held at the Wellington Social Club Rooms in Dixon Street. Bill, who sailed with the First Echelon, is at present home on furlough from the Middle East, and to him and his wife we extend our heartiest congratulations.

* * *

Another of our conductors walked down the aisle at Sunny Nelson on February 26. His name is Allen Kerr. Allen was discharged from the Army on December 10 after serving in New Zealand for two years, and is once again back on the job. We offer to you, Allen, and your bride our sincere congratulations.

* * *

The engagement is announced of one of our popular lady conductors, Ivy Eden, the third-eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Eden, to Harold Robert, third son of Mrs. and the late Mr. C. Ferguson, of Lyall Bay. Our heartiest congratulations to you both.

election campaign, provided we were placed in charge of liquid refreshments.

* * *

Some time ago we reported that Bill Mitchell, who returned home from the Middle East, had resigned from the service on account of ill health. We are pleased to be able to say now that Bill has come back to us again and is now looking well. You know, you just can't keep these chaps away from such a good job as ours. We are really pleased to have you back with us, Bill, and let us add to that our congratulations on your being elected as the conductors' representative at the recent union elections.

* * *

Another ex-trammie recently arrived home was Allen McElwain, who looked real well. He sends his regards to all trammies. Allen was well known on the sporting side of the service, having played Rugby and cricket for tramway teams in the years preceding the war.

* * *

Back at work after a holiday spent on the beach is Inspector Bill Andrews. He was looking real well and had quite a tan on; also something else, one of those cute seven-a-sides. We guess we too will have to disappear and try and grow one. If we do we won't be talked into shaving it off the first week we are back.