

JULY 1942

"OBSERVER"  
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CHRISTCHURCH,  
NEW ZEALAND.

Printed and Published by the Editorial Council for the Christchurch Wing of the Air Training Corps and dedicated to the memory of those New Zealand Airmen who have given their lives in the execution of their duty.

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FOREWORD by WING-COMMANDER G.A. NICHOLLS.

Commandant of the Air Training Corps in New Zealand.

The initiative which has prompted the editors and committee responsible for the "Observer" to produce a purely "ATC" Bulletin does, I think, express the spirit of the Air Training Corps in New Zealand today. I extend my congratulations to "Observer", and my best wishes for its success in the interests of A.T.C.

That the Air Training Corps in New Zealand is fulfilling its function of increasing the quantity and quality of recruits for the R.N.Z.A.F. with distinction and success is already established. In every town in New Zealand public opinion is appreciating the splendid training which is being carried out by the cadets. Those cadets who have already entered into Service life in the R.N.Z.A.F. have set a high standard and have earned the praise of their instructors. The keenness of cadets is commented upon by Air Force officers everywhere. All these facts are an impression of the spirit of the Air Training Corps. The interest and keenness of the Youth of New Zealand as shown in the ever-increasing membership in the Air Training Corps leaves no doubt as to the quality of the reserves for the Air Force of the future.

With such a splendid spirit shown by cadets and with such keenness to get on with their training, it is no wonder the Air Training Corps has made such rapid strides in so short a time. Every cadet realises that when he joins the A.T.C. there is plenty of hard work ahead of him. Those who work the hardest will reap the greatest benefit. In Aviation today, the standard is high - only hard work today in every phase of training can produce the airman of tomorrow. A.T.C. is the first step in Air Force training and provides the foundation necessary for service training. Much depends on the soundness of the foundations which are laid during the cadet's training in the A.T.C.

The production of a Bulletin such as "Observer" can materially assist in spreading the spirit of the A.T.C. If it creates a wider interest in A.T.C. activities and brings large numbers of new enrolments into the Corps, it will have achieved outstanding success.

(Sgd) : GEO. A. NICHOLLS,  
Commandant, Air Training Corps.

AIMS and OBJECTS of BULLETIN.  
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To strengthen the links between our officers, N.C.O. and Cadets within the Unit.

To establish a liaison with other A.T.C. units throughout N.Z.

To provide an up-to-date resumé of squadron activities.

To give news of the A.T.C. in other centres.

To provide scope for the literary ability of Cadets.

Of all the weapons which the Germans sprang upon us at the commencement of hostilities '39 perhaps the most effective was the Jung Luftwaffe. This organisation, which corresponds to the A.T.C., enabled the Germans to place large forces of aircraft where they would be of most value. For some years before the war this young airforce had been in existence within the German Reich and through it were passed thousands of thoroughly trained air crews. These young airmen were the men that flew in the invasion of Poland, France, and the many other countries now ground under the heel of the Nazis. Just as this organisation gave to the Germans air superiority in the first year of the war, so must the air training corps of the R.A.F., and its branches in the dominions give to the senior branch of the Service superiority now! The German A.T.C. as indeed it is, is and has been an integral part of their war machine; so must our force be no less an important part of the British and Allied war effort.

Already thousands of eager and enthusiastic young men have joined the A.T.C. throughout the Empire, but having joined, their duty has not ended. They must continue with increasing vigour to train themselves for the not far distant day when they will be matched against the enemy. Too often has the cunning and brutal Nazi been underestimated and in recent months has his even more cunning collaborator, in the East, the almond-eyed Jap. Cadets should realise that the enemy is still, despite severe set-backs very powerful, and although we, the Allies have now reached parity with him no easy victory can be expected. Should victory come soon so much the better, but we must for safety's sake assume that the path to our ultimate goal will be long and arduous.

The horticulturist who desires to exterminate a noxious weed which has made its way into his most valuable plot does not perform a war dance before the intruder. He arms himself with hoe or spray gun and systematically sets about exterminating the weed. Therefore it is of no avail our calling the enemy nasty names. It is far better to follow the horticulturist's example and arm ourselves with the most effective weapons. Remember the old maxim - "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." So, Cadets, let your sticks be the guns of your 'planes and your stones the contents of your bomb racks.

Only with large numbers of well-trained air-crew, equipped with modern aircraft can we hope to overcome the enemy. Our factories are providing us with the aircraft, the A.T.C. must provide the crews in the air and on the ground. We must not lower the standard of quality for which the R.N.Z.A.F. is noted.

It is felt that it can be left to you cadets to do the job properly. Support your officers and N.C.O.'S in their efforts to improve the position of the A.T.C. in the life of the Community.

THE EDITOR.

What about some contributions chaps? Not shy are you?

EDITORIAL COUNCIL - CONSTITUTION OF

Supervisor : Pilot-Officer A. W. Brown.  
Editor : Sergeant C. M. Loach.  
Editorial Council : Sgt. D.H.Garland, W/O G.Mannering, Sgt.T.G.Bannister  
Cpl. M. Campbell.

Do you know ?

The colours of the D.F.C. Ribbon?  
How many Marshals of the R.A.F.?  
Who are they?  
What two flags are flown on R.N.Z.A.F. stations?

Remember, Cadets, this is your paper; give us your contributions!

Don't worry if you get into trouble with the Law chaps! We have some of the City's best lawyers amongst our officers.

DELVING INTO ANTIQUITY: (A brief resumé of activities to date).  
When the A.T.C. commenced training here in Christchurch in October 1941; after many months spent in organising, the cadets then available were formed into a squadron. Training was carried out under this arrangement until January 1942 when two squadrons were formed under Flying Officers G.S.Troup and G.E.M.Keys as squadrons' commander. A P/O was appointed to command each flight.

During Easter a camp for prospective N.C.O.'s was conducted on Quail Island, in Lyttelton Harbour, some 60 officers and cadets attending. Altogether a very enjoyable and profitable time was had by all.

On the third day in camp an inspection was made by F/O Bisley, Adjt. of one of the R.N.Z.A.F. stations in Canterbury, accompanied by the A.T.C. district Adjt. The last day of our stay on the island saw the announcements of promotions. There were many tense faces as the list was read, cadets being made corporals, others corporals-Acting Sergeants. As each new N.C.O. was announced he came forward and was presented to a visiting station padre, Flight Lieutenant Osmer. None of those eagerly waiting took notice of the steady drizzle which had just set in.

We cannot pass over the Easter Camp without mentioning F/O Thompson and his violin, providing, as they did, a pleasant accompaniment for the boys' lusty voices.

Some of the appointments were expected, others came as a surprise but the fairness of the officers in selecting the most suitable was fully recognised by all.

Anzac Day saw the participation of a detachment of the A.T.C. in a military parade, a very favourable impression being created.

A party of cadets attended a physical training course at a northern station, gaining some valuable experience in class taking. The course took 10 days, May 25th to June 5th.

From this report it is obvious that the A.T.C. in Christchurch made a steady if rather slow progress. The reader shall readily see

from other articles herein that this progress has been somewhat accelerated during the past month.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.  
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Recent appointments and promotions are as follows :-

Ranks confirmed include :

Sergeant J.E.G. Beckwith	Sergeant T.J.Bannister
" Burton	" A. Beanland
" Kennedy	" D.H.Garland
" J. McCormick	" H.A.J.Hobson
	" C.M.Loach

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Cadet R. Stafford has just received his Corporal's stripes, a just reward for good, steady work. Another promotion which has been announced quite recently is that of Corp. G.M. Mannering to Act.sgt., followed almost immediately by his promotion to the highest rank in the Corps, that of Warrant-Officer. The fact that such a young N.C.O. as Mannering should be promoted to this rank shows clearly the opportunities for the right type of cadet. All ranks feel sure that W/O Mannering will go far in the Commissioned ranks of the R.N.Z.A.F. and perhaps of the R.A.F. The A.T.C. requires more N.C.O.'s. Watch this page, Cadets, your name may appear here.

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We wonder, as we look at the inspiring advert, appealing for recruits if our buglers at the Easter Camp, provided the inspiration. We have been very sorry this month to say goodbye to two of our officers F/O J. A. Poulson, and P/O J. Dugdale. Both these officers have left us to take up duties on R.N.Z.A.F. stations. All cadets will remember F/O Poulson's kindly interest in all forms of A.T.C. activities, quite apart from his official duties. As area Adjnt. Mr. Poulson did an excellent job and was voted "one of the best" by all N.C.O's and Cadets. All ranks wish P/O Poulson every success in his new appointment.

P/O Dugdale. Even before the commencement of the training syllabus this officer did yeoman service in organising the A.T.C. in Christchurch. P/O Dugdale did excellent work as both Flt.Comm. and Instructor. We greatly regret losing his services but feel sure that the value of his work on the station justifies his loss. We extend to him also our best wishes.

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"CHOCKS AWAY"

The O.C. call for action!

By F/O G. S. Troup.

An A.T.C. Unit resembles an aircraft in its working. Just as an aircraft in order to fly, must overcome the forces of gravity and drag so a squadron has to get the better of the deadweight of old habits and prejudices, and the drag of inertia as an aircraft overcomes these by its speed, the outward expression of the force of its engine applied through the airscrew, so a squadron requires a con-

stant driving force of leadership resulting in endless rapid "revolutions". The angle of attack of the aerofoil determines the intensity with which the 'plane bites on the air; similarly the attack on a squadron's work must be so judged that the unit gains altitude instead of losing it, yet does not stall. Indeed, the "attitude" of an aircraft is no more important than the "attitude" of a squadron to its work. And so the comparison might go on ad infinitum.

Onward, the squadrons of the Canterbury wing! Fill up with the aviation spirit of enthusiasm, switch on the spark of alertness, dash accelerating over the ground, till, having covered it, airborne at last, and sanely trimmed and steadily climbing, you strike your true course, hold it despite wind and bad weather, and safely reach the objective of thorough knowledge of the Job.

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Just a word about recruiting, chaps - don't tell us that you have no friends who would be suitable for training as pilots, wireless operators, gunners, flight mechanics, flight riggers and the almost innumerable trades in the R.N.Z.A.F. You must all know at least one suitable boy although the A.T.C. insists on quality, we must have quantity. We have now some four or five hundred cadets in the wing, but that is not enough - we want at least 1000. It is your duty to bring them along, they are needed TODAY. Come, men, how about a new Squadron by Xmas, shanghai every fellow between 16 and 18 years' of age.

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TIMARU CALLING.

From our Timaru Reporter:-

The officers and cadets of this Squadron extend to the Officers and cadets of the Christchurch Wing their thanks for the opportunity to contribute to this publication.

Physical training is carried on under the instructions of Messrs Lloyd and McRea, and under this same skilled instruction steady progress has been made. These two gentlemen have taken an active and kindly interest in all squadron activities.

Sunday, 28th June, dawned bright and clear and at approximately 0810 hours a party of Officers and Cadets set out full of cheerful optimism, for a day at an Air Force Station. It is however, unnecessary to go into details of the day's activities, but we wish to congratulate Christchurch on their fine performances in both Squad, drill and P.T. We think their win in the former was well-merited. We also wish to thank all those who were responsible for arranging the trip and who made it so enjoyable.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP.

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What we've noticed :-

- (1) A certain Sgt. gave eyes right instead of eyes left while passing the guard-house.
- (2) The same Sgt. was rather nervous before the Squad Drill Competition commenced.

- (3) Webster had a water pistol on the train - naughty boy - in the A.T.C. now.
- (4) Conroy has not yet recovered from his trip.
- (5) Sgt. McCormack (ChCh) uses bobby pins. (Whose?)

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DANCE :-

Saturday July 15th saw a very successful dance given by the Officers of the Wing to the N.C.O.'s and Cadets of this Unit. Owing to the inclement weather the number of cadets present was rather less than expected. The efforts of P/Os A.W.Brown, C.Perry and J. Stannage contributed to a great extent to the success of the undertaking. Some 200 cadets and partners were present and an enjoyable time was had by all. At the close of the proceedings the gathering was addressed by F/O G.S.Troup who thanked those present for their attendance. Sgt. C.M.Loach extended the thanks of the N.C.O.'s and cadets to the officers of the Wing for their invitation to such a function. The gathering was honoured by the presence of F/O Bisley and Mrs. Bisley.

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KIWIS CORNER :-

Perhaps we are incorrect in calling ours a Kiwi Squadron as it contains two aircraft flights. However, what have we been doing during the past month? Not sitting down on the job, we can tell you (not like our associate). We have made several valuable acquisitions, notably a new flight, "D" Flight, and through the generosity of the Rotary Club, we now have a small technical library.

Our Squadron Adj. P/O Matson has made a purge of cadets whose attendance has been unsatisfactory, and we feel that, unburdened by these drones, we shall make more rapid progress.

Darkness has limited drill during the past month. Nevertheless the new Flight has made great strides and now compares very favourably with other flights. Yes, our squadron is pushing on with its training, all cadets looking forward to the day when, having graduated from the A.T.C. they put on the brass of the senior branch of the service.

The 1st. Ch.Ch. squad. under the guidance of its very active and hard working C.O. has continued through the past weeks with its various activities. Educational subjects have taken most of our time and recent tests have shown cadets to be well up to standard.

With P/O K.A. Muff considerable progress has been made on the physical and recreational side of our training. WE are now, and indeed have been, for some time, the trained soldiers tables. A start has been made with a Tramping Club and a Camera Club, the latter being instructed by the Christchurch Photographic Society.

This should influence greatly the training of observers and gunners. The gym. classes held every Monday and Thursday evening and every Saturday afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. Gym are well attended, much valuable work being done.

The swimming classes at the Municipal Baths on Mondays and Wednesdays are attended by cadets unable to swim.

A census of cadets reveals that in one sq. 80% of the cadets and in

the other 60% participate in some form of team sport. P/O Muff has just been on a course at a Northern Station. Meanwhile Flt. Sgts. are carrying on Friday night instructors classes which gives them a chance to improve their technique. Come in Gisborne, let's hear something about you! Our squadron is at Gisborne. Just a small unit, but very keen. We have entered upon the field of sport in a big way, with cricket, football and hockey team. Our colours are blue jersey with A.T.C. wings attached, white shorts and blue and white ribbed socks. Having already gained the respect of all Gisborne teams, we are pressing on to more successful engagements in the future. Every man takes part in some A.T.C. sport on Saturdays. If he doesn't play football or hockey he runs with the Harriers' Club. As you will see from the following, our weekly routine is rather strenuous. That's how we like it. Monday Night Air Force Office Club Rooms (a special room behind A.T.C. H.Q. for cadets' use), model 'plane building and designing. Tuesday 6.30 p.m. Y.M.C.A. gym fall in, roll call, routine orders. Sq. inspection and drill to 7.15 Ambulance lecture to 8 p.m. 8 - 9 p.m. p.t. stripped off to shorts and shower before going home. Wednesday Morse classes "A" section one week, "B" section next. Thursday at High School 6.30 p.m. Roll Call and lecture to 7 p.m. then educational subjects : maths, science and navigation to 9 p.m. Sunday compulsory Parade for sq. 1st Sunday in month, with High School unit. This usually ends with a route march through town.

Presented by courtesy of "Take Off", the Gisborne Bulletin.

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Just Announced :

Promoted to Sq. Warrant Officer, Sgt. D.H. Garland.

"A" Flt. F/S Sgt. A.J. Beanland, to be Sgt., Cpl. Dott, to be Cpl., Cdt. R.D. Hughes, & Cdt. W.P. Burke.

"B" Flt. to be Flt. Sgt., Sgt. C.M. Loach, to be Sgt., Cpl. J.A. Henderson to be Sgt., Cdt. R. McKellow, to be Cpl., Cdts. C.J. Blewett and H.P. Were.

"C" Flt. to be F/S Sgt. T.J. Bannister, To be Cpl.s. Cdts. A.M. Hyde, E.C. Brown, & T. Goodman.

"D" Flt. to be F/S, Sgt. H.A.J. Hobson, to be Cpl., Cdts. E.G. Olsen, E.G. Dingwall, J.M. Saunders, J.P. Bell, to be Sgt. Cpl. T. Husband.

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