

failure, due to damage received whilst flying through heavy enemy 'flak'. The pilot made the best possible landing on the water, the rubber boats were inflated and, before the aircraft disappeared beneath the grim, grey waters, the crew, though somewhat damp physically, were safely esconsed in their life-saving apparatus cheerily hoping for immediate rescue.

Night drew on and no rescue craft approached. Their position became more and more desperate as the weather became worse and the sky a mass of low-hanging rain-clouds. For four days these men took it in turns to paddle towards England, guessing their course by the direction of the wind. At the end of the fourth day, they were over-joyed to see in the gathering dusk, the loom of a vessel against the grey horizon. They had a torch which was still working, and, by means of constantly signalling in morse code with the torch, they were able to attract the attention of the navigating officers of the vessel, and very soon they were being warmed and fed by welcoming friendly merchant navy sailors.

Had the crew of this stricken aircraft not had a thorough knowledge of the morse code, there is little doubt that they would not have been rescued, because they were nearly at the end of their tether. Also, they may not have been rescued, because they could not have given their own recognition signals and more than probably would have been ignored because they might have been taken for an enemy vessel.

I could recite a hundred instances where men's lives have been saved by a knowledge of the morse code -- instances probably well-known to all A.T.C. Cadets. So do not ever believe that the time spent with the oscillators is time wasted. Signalling is the most essential part of your service training, and the greater the efficiency you attain whilst with the A.T.C., the less you will have to bother with this particular study when infinitely more important matters have to take up the whole of your attention on station with the R.N.Z.A.F.

= = = = =

"THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND ITS WORK"

(ANONYMOUS)

Two or three times during the month, the Social Committee meets at its Headquarters to discuss the arrangement of social functions for the Wing. The Meetings are held between about 1830 hours and 2030 hours on Friday nights. At 1830 hours, the Committee members begin to arrive and the Meeting commences under the presidency of W/O Mannering. Gossip of the week seems to be the first item on the list, and for half an hour the discussion puts a Mothers' Meeting in the shade, as the coming and goings of committee members and others are discussed. The sheiks in the party are ragged about their latest attachments and finally the President succeeds in drawing the attention of members to the next dance to be arranged, inviting comment as he details tentative arrangements.

Financial affairs are the next to come into the picture as F/Sgt. Bannister, in the capacity of Treasurer, presents his budget. About 2000