

up by tens of thousands of people within range of the loud speakers, and there were further cheers for the wives and mothers of the men, who, the Mayor said, had passed through a very anxious time while the ship was away. The singing of the National Anthem by the great gathering concluded the civic welcome.

There were merry scenes in the Town Hall, where the official luncheon was tendered to the captain and officers and men of the Achilles. The gathering included officers and men of all the armed forces, and a number of guests.

At the official table were the Minister of Education (Mr. Fraser), the Minister of Defence (Mr. Jones), the Minister of Industries and Commerce (Mr. Sullivan), the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in New Zealand (Sir Harry Batterbee), the Leader of the Legislative Council (Mr. Wilson), the Chief Justice (Sir Michael Myers), Colonel J. Hargest, the Consul for France (M. Pouquet), and Mr. Tai Mitchell, representing the Maori race.

TROOPS IN EGYPT

New Zealanders Have Busy Time

CAIRO'S HOSPITALITY

"Time still refuses to stand still for members of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force," states the officer commanding the New Zealand Forces overseas, Major-General B. C. Freyberg, in a cable message received by the Prime Minister, Mr. Savage. The days which we spent in settling down in the concentration area on the Egyptian sands have flown by, and we feel ready for the inauguration of our advanced training programme.

"In spare time during the last few days, our eyes have been opened to some of the endless wonders and sights of Cairo and its surrounding. Leave is now being granted each evening, also Saturday afternoons, and already most of us have been carried in fast trains along the Nile to huge mixed cities. Organized tours to places of interest are being arranged.

"We seem popular with the people of Cairo, whose hospitality has warmed us to the city. The native language is beyond us, but school-day French is proving more than useful. Our trips have impressed us with the intense wartime activities all around us, for we have seen and heard of the canvas cities, even larger than ours, and we have met troops from England and Scotland, and India. R.A.F. planes have excited us with mock fighting, just above our heads.

"The weather here, with brilliant days and cool nights, suits us ideally, and the general standard of health has probably never been higher. Every care is taken to keep it so, even to cleaning hands with disinfectant before and after food.

"There are good Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes, of which several are established here," concludes Major-General Freyberg. "Part of our transport equipment, in the form of vans, trucks, cars, and motor-cycles has been handed over to us, and dispatch-riders have already experienced the thrill of careering over pebbly undulating desert in the shadow of the Pyramids. Our days are truly filled with activity in this new land, but our thoughts continuously span the thousands of miles to New Zealand."

EMPIRE AIR SCHEME APPOINTMENTS

Group Captain Isitt To Go To Canada

LIAISON OFFICER FOR AUSTRALIA

Cabinet has approved of the appointment of Group Captain L. M. Isitt, Air Member for Personnel, as the representative of the New Zealand Government on the supervisory board set up to administer the Empire air training scheme.



GROUP CAPTAIN L. M. ISITT.

in Canada. Making this announcement last evening the Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, said that Mr. B. R. Rae, inspecting accountant, Air Department, was also proceeding to Canada to assist Group Captain Isitt.

The Minister said that Cabinet had also approved the appointment of Group Captain T. M. Wilkes, Controller of Civil Aviation, as liaison officer in Australia for the New Zealand Army



GROUP CAPTAIN T. M. WILKES.

and Air Force. During his absence from New Zealand Flight Lieutenant J. M. Buckeridge, at present senior assistant to the Controller of Civil Aviation, would be Acting-Controller of Civil Aviation.

THE SOLDIER ON LEAVE

How The A.N.A. Club Helps Him To Enjoy His Time

The life of a soldier in training is not all discipline and hard work; he has hours of leave and relaxation when much can be done to help him to enjoy himself by well-organized social activities. At the outset of the war a group of men and women who fully realized the importance of social entertainment

for the men in training decided to form a club to provide amusement for the men when on leave. Thus the A.N.A.—Army, Navy and Air—Club came into being, under the jurisdiction of the Wellington Provincial Patriotic Committee. That there was a real need for such a club is shown by its growing popularity, which can be fully gauged by the attendance figures to date—5455.

The organization of the club is efficiently inconspicuous. Things always seem to go with an effortless "swing," and only those who are behind the scenes can realize the reason. Here co-operation, enthusiasm and tireless energy prevails among the committee of women workers who cheerfully prepare supper, always one of the most important items, and do the endless chores such as "washing up."

Concerts were originally planned, but as the men showed a definite preference for dancing, this has become the main item on the programmes arranged for the Friday and Saturday nights when the men meet at the club, which has taken over the old R.S.A. rooms in Victoria Street. The rooms are admirably suited to the needs of the club, but are not big enough to hold the increasing crowd of boys and men who are making it their headquarters when on leave. For those who do not wish to dance there are ping-pong, darts, and other games, but those who can't dance but would like to, have felt very grateful to Mrs. A. McNaughton (Miss Phyllis Bates), for her lessons in the art.

The club could not have chosen any one more suitable than Mrs. McNaughton, for her knowledge of organizing dances is an invaluable asset. Whether it is teaching the Palais Guide with the aid of a "mike" or dashing about seeing that everybody is mixing well, whatever she does, wherever she goes, things "move," as the boys would say.

To dance, of course, the boys must have partners, and this is where one of the biggest secrets of the success of the club is revealed. The "girls' auxiliary," headed by an auxiliary committee of 16, consists of some 800 girls drawn from all walks of life. Credit is due to them that they all co-operate fully with the committee in entertaining the men. The committee's idea is to keep things moving and everybody mixing, and the result is that everybody has a thoroughly enjoyable time.

One needs to visit the club one night to fully appreciate what is being done to give the men a bright time during their hours of relaxation. The men's committee has instituted a professional touch by a "hat check" system. Once past this, the ballroom makes its presence known by cheerful noise. Friday nights are more informal, the girls wear afternoon dress, and the music is by piano, but on Saturday nights it looks like a ball. A full swing orchestra is provided, and all the girls wear their evening frocks. On the second floor there is a comfortable lounge and a large supper room. Here gallant work is done behind the scenes. Soldiers have good appetites, and the committee likes to see them satisfied. Many of Wellington's best-known women help here; with sleeves rolled up and aprons on, they work with a will. These same women act as chaperones and take turns presiding at the door. Their executive consists of Mesdames A. McNaughton, W. E. Barnard, E. Luke, F. Martin, H. F. O'Leary, E. Puttick, A. B. Smith, F. H. Whatley, T. M. Wilkes; and the men's executive comprises Messrs. F. E. Bailey (chairman), R. C. Burton, W. D. Gordon, E. C. Hale, J. Joyce, A. McNaughton (vice-chairman and treasurer), C. A. Morton (secretary), and J. Murray.

The club is ruled by a spirit of true democracy. Class distinctions are non-existent, and officers and men of the three services mix freely and happily. The responsibility for the club's activities rests on the executive committee, but they receive generous assistance from club members and other helpers. Numbers of Wellington firms are generous in supplying food, and the very small charge made for the dances also helps to pay expenses.

The club membership is limited to 150 members, who are called upon for

Everyman's

"Abide with me from morn
For without Thee I cannot
Abide with me when night
For without Thee I dare not

On Sunday evening we had Mr. W. J. Burrows, of Christchurch, who appreciated much the opportunity of meeting the men and seeing something of the work being done at Hut. After the usual singing Burrows read from the 27th of St. Matthew's Gospel, depicting the appearance of the Lord Jesus before the Roman governor, following it up with an apt talk on Pilate's question, "What I do with Jesus which is of Christ?" In a simple but powerful way he stressed the fact that individual has to face this

We may endeavour to sidestep it, but sooner or later it will be met and answered. In bringing redemption and salvation to mankind, Christ had deliberately to the Cross. Throughout His life had demonstrated His powers in the working of miracles when the time came He came to take Him and unjustly crucify Him, counting the reproach of man as worth the cost of life's blood. Speaking to men in His presence there in the Kingdom He showed that they had weighed possibilities and counted the appeal to them to ponder the claims of that One who was going forth to face only the physical dangers which might wreck their lives, the moral dangers, which could wreck their manhood and their hearts. Only the presence of Christ could keep them in the face of these dangers, and he left them with "the next move up to you." May the men be given strength to make the most of their time and render to the One Who is able to keep them.

The new extension of the club in use for the first time on Friday night and when all the furnishing is in hand, will add considerable comfort of the men. We look forward to many happy days during the short periods the soldiers are on leave, and our prayer is that they may be able to look back on their days with joy and thankfulness to the living Christ.

assistance as required. The club is only to simplify administration, and, outside actual members, can create any "auxiliaries" such as the girls' auxiliary.

That the men appreciate the opportunity of assisting them to enjoy their time, is evident by their enjoyment of the Friday and Saturday nights and the committee feels a real pride and pleasure when they see men (as often happens) with appreciation of the soldiers in their speech.

The men who attend the club have always felt that their time was too short. As their trains depart for Trentham at 11.20 p.m., they leave at 11 p.m., but all that time is changed now, thanks to the executive. Their efforts with the railway and railway authorities have resulted in the time limit being extended to 12.15 a.m.