

WARM WELCOME

Returning Soldiers From England

ARRIVAL AT WELLINGTON

Thirty-nine returning New Zealand n.c.o.'s and men, from England arrived at Wellington yesterday from Auckland. Of these 23 were for the South Island and left Wellington by last night's steamer express, under Lieut. R. W. Borland, officer in charge of sick and wounded records, Southern Military District.

Some of the men interviewed expressed themselves anxious to get fit and well again so that they might return overseas and join their comrades in the fight against the Germans. They found the journey back monotonous after exciting times in England. A few showed that they could rival the Anzacs in the fact-fetched stories they had to tell for the credulous. One reported reading in an English paper that the South Island had been bombed and that the population was in gas masks.

Because the men have been returned to New Zealand as sick or wounded it does not mean that they are finished with the Army. Their enlistment for the duration of the war holds good unless they are discharged as permanently unfit for any military duty. Unless so certified they will be found jobs in the Army in New Zealand or returned to civilian life on leave without pay. In the latter event they are liable to be called upon for medical examination and, if found to be again up to the required standard returned to the Army. For instance, one soldier who came back to New Zealand in February has now recovered his full strength and health and is re-entering camp shortly.

The men were well looked after on arrival. They were met by representatives of the sick and wounded department of the Army, the town clerk, Mr. E. P. Norman, representing the mayor, Mr. Hislop, Mr. Ward, M.L.C., honorary secretary of the Wellington Provincial Patriotic Council, and Mr. M. S. Galloway of the Red Cross Society.

They were taken to the Salvation Army hostel at the station for breakfast and then conveyed to the A.N.A. Club for morning tea. Those who had relatives to meet them were allowed to go with them. Transport to their homes was provided. The city council provided a bus for those who wanted to go on a sight-seeing tour. Cigarettes were also provided.

The men will now enjoy 28 days leave on pay, free rail travel for four weeks, and will then be paid a mufli allowance, as and when due. Those needing inpatient or outpatient hospital treatment will have several days at their homes before their attendance is required.

Nothing was left undone that could be arranged to make the homecoming of the men as hospitable as possible. The weather was cold and wet, but the welcome was warm.

Transport for the soldiers was arranged by Mrs. M. I. Bunny.

CASUALTY LIST

Members Of Expeditionary Force

Private William Llewellyn Verdon, died of wounds. Mother: Mrs. A. Verdon, 58 Bank Street, Timaru.

Lieutenant Arthur Thomas Begg Green, wounded. Father: Mr. R. Green, 200 Church Street, Timaru.

Private Lancelot Brian Burgess, died of sickness. Mother: Mrs. A. King, c/o. P.W.D., Post Office, Oaro.



THE CHEERING FOR HITLER
GROWS LITTLER AND LITTLER,

BUT THE CLAMOUR FOR GREYS
IS NO PASSING PHASE



Greys is Great

BECAUSE ONLY A PERFECT TOBACCO CAN GIVE YOU A PERFECT SMOKE

FLYING CROSSES

Awards To New Zealanders

GALLANTRY IN THE AIR

Further advice has been received by Air Headquarters giving particulars of the circumstances relating to the award of Distinguished Flying Crosses to Flight Lieutenants D. F. W. Barker and R. M. Trousdale. The official advice states:—

"Flight Lieutenant Barker has constantly displayed skill and gallantry during his many operations against the enemy. In October, 1940, when returning from a raid on Magdeburg, his port engine was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the airscrew flew off while over the Dutch coast. He regained control of his aircraft after it had lost some 3000 feet, and flew across the North Sea on one engine till forced to alight on the water by the failure of his remaining engine, 20 yards from the beach.

"Since the early months of the war, Flight Lieutenant Trousdale has been continuously employed as a fighter pilot, and his keenness and enthusiasm for operations has been most marked. He has destroyed at least four enemy

aircraft, including one at night."

Flight Lieutenant Barker, whose next-of-kin was Mr. S. R. Barker (father), Gisborne, was subsequently reported killed on air operations in February, 1941. He was awarded the D.F.C. in December, 1940.

Flight Lieutenant Trousdale, who won the D.F.C. in February, 1941, left New Zealand early in 1939 to take up a short-service commission in the Royal Air Force. His next-of-kin is Mr. A. C. Trousdale (father), Howick, Auckland.

Awards To New Zealanders

TWO WELLINGTON AIRMEN

Advice has been received by Air Headquarters that two more New Zealanders serving with the Royal Air Force have been awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses. They are: Wing Commander Geoffrey Tyford Jarman, and Flying Officer Charles Aylmer Pownall.

Wing Commander Jarman, who was born in 1906, was educated at Wellington College. He represented North Otago at Rugby football. In 1930 he was accepted for a short-service com-

mission in the Royal Air Force. He is the son of Mr. A. Jarman, 63 Penrose Street, Lower Hutt, Wellington. He married in England, and his wife and two children arrived in New Zealand late in 1940.

Flying Officer Pownall was born in Wellington in 1915 and was educated at Rongotai and Wellington Colleges. He was selected for a short-service commission in March, 1939, and after training in New Zealand at the Wanganui Aero Club and the R.N.Z.A.F. station, Wigram, left New Zealand to join the Royal Air Force. His father is Mr. A. B. Pownall, 43 Matai Road, Hataitai, Wellington.

WANGANUI AIR FORCE RELATIONS.

Following its usual custom, the Wanganui Air Force Relations Committee this week entertained thirteen members of the Air Force and Fleet Air Arm and their mothers. All the men were presented with gifts and their mothers with sprays of flowers. Representatives of the city and Victoria League were present, and Mrs. S. G. Millen, the Air Force Relations president, briefly addressed the gathering.