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**AWAITING THE NEWS****Casualty Lists Of New Zealand Forces****METHOD OF COMPILATION**

To anxious relatives and others who await tidings as to whether all is well or otherwise with their men who have been in the forefront of the fiercest fighting in Greece, a paramount question today is how long they will have to wait for news.

On the experience of the last war, it may be a week to 10 days before the first lists of those who have fallen or have been wounded are issued. The first list from the landing on Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, was announced in Wellington on May 2, and it was followed by further lists on May 3 and 4. From the Battle of the Somme, which the New Zealand Division entered on September 15, 1916, the first list was published on September 23, but it was not till September 29 that it was announced in New Zealand that the Dominion's men were engaged in the battle.

A complete and very thorough system for recording casualties exists in the Army. Daily, or as often as is practicable, each unit sends to its brigade or regimental headquarters full lists of the officers and men who have been killed or wounded, and these are sent on to Divisional Headquarters the same day. From that office they are telegraphed to the Deputy Adjutant-General's office at the base. There they are checked with the records, and the lists are then cabled to the countries from which the forces come.

**Congested Cable Lines.**

Every field ambulance, casualty clearing station or hospital through which a soldier passes has also the duty of furnishing details of number, rank, name and unit, together with a report on the injuries suffered, to the office at the base. In the case of the seriously wounded and sick, a special daily telegraphed report is required.

Note should be taken of the fact that the return is to be forwarded by units daily "or as often as is practicable." If the New Zealand Division is still engaged in a rearguard action, a battle of movement under the most arduous conditions, it will be exceedingly difficult to maintain an up-to-the-minute office system in the battalion and batteries. Troop and platoon commanders, with their non-commissioned officers, will take notes of the casualties suffered by their commands, but they must wait till there is a lull in the fighting before they can pass the details to their own unit headquarters.

Again, it is not known whether the base office, known as Second Echelon, a term which must not be confused with the titles given the several early bodies of troops to leave New Zealand, has been moved from Egypt to Greece. But whether the office is in Greece or in Egypt, there is probably at this moment considerable congestion of the cable lines due to calls dealing with more urgent military business affecting the progress of the battles.

**News Not Withheld.**

There are some people who assert that casualty lists are withheld for various reasons. There is no point in doing so. Units must get their lists in as quickly as possible, so that they may draw reinforcements to bring them to full strength, again.

The necessary checking and telegraphing of the lists takes time which deprives them of any value they may have to the enemy for his immediate purposes should they, by some means, become known to him.

**Bedside Visitor in Nairobi**

A lone elephant with footmarks 19 inches in diameter gave one New Zealander a greater scare than the enemy in country round Nairobi. Writing of his experience, Lieutenant L. G. Westwood, formerly of New Plymouth, said that the elephant wandered to within 20 feet of his bed, which was in the middle of the shadiest bush he could

**AUCKLAND AIRMAN'S TASK****Flew "Flying Fortress" Across Atlantic**

A young Aucklander, Flying Officer Ian Patterson, aged 23, was one of the Royal Air Force officers honoured by special selection to fly the first of the American-built Boeing "flying fortress" bombers across the Atlantic for service against the Germans.

A cablegram received by his father, Mr. John Patterson, One Tree Hill, stated he had arrived in Britain after a record crossing.

**TEA WITH ROYAL FAMILY****New Zealand Airmen**

Nearly 40 New Zealanders, including pilot officers and sergeants, had tea with the King and Queen and the two Princesses at Windsor Castle shortly after their arrival in Britain from New Zealand. They were first shown over Windsor Castle by Lady Hardinge, wife of Sir Alexander Hardinge.

Among the New Zealand airmen were Pilot Officers J. Alastair Graham and D. Herrick, G.C. (Hastings), R. Morrow (Christchurch), and Sergeants J. N. Grace (Wellington) and P. Millar (Masterton).

"We were all very surprised and elated when Lady Hardinge told us to get ready to have tea with the King and Queen after she had shown us over the castle," said Pilot Officer Graham. "The first sign we had that the Royal Family was coming was five little dogs which came whirling into the room. We sat round the fire and talked.

"The Princesses controlled the dogs pretty well but I noticed that when the Queen was not looking one of the puppies jumped up and stole her cake. I told the King how we in New Zealand had got up at 4 o'clock in the morning to listen to his speech at the outbreak of war. He was very interested in what we told him about our training, since, of course, he is a pilot himself.

"Both the King and Queen asked us questions about our voyage from New Zealand, and recalled their own stay there. They were both absolutely charming to us. The Princesses talked to us about the dogs and were very entertaining."

Recently Sergeant Grace was the navigator in an aeroplane in which Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands made a flight over Scotland.

**News For Soldiers**

The provision of a news service for New Zealand soldiers overseas is one of the activities in which the National Patriotic Fund is engaging. This has been accomplished by an extension of "New Zealand News," published in London, from eight to 12 pages. The larger paper, which contains items of interest to New Zealanders at Home, includes a more comprehensive survey of Dominion happenings, and is distributed free among servicemen in England, the proprietors of "New Zealand News" meeting the cost of 1000 copies and the National Patriotic Fund providing 1000, in addition to paying for the cost of the extension. The experiment has been so successful that it is intended to make a distribution to all posts where New Zealand soldiers are stationed.

Identifying his visitor as soon as he heard it breathe, he retreated barefoot. After that experience he had several nightmares. His cries alarmed his companion, who thought they came from one of the big baboons which the men had been used to seeing in the trees overhead. Constant vigilance is necessary against attacks from wild beasts in this region. "Some nights I feel I should like to be inside a cage myself," said the writer.

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