

DOMINION AIRMEN

Awards Now Total 100

GALLANTRY IN ACTION

Distinguished Flying Crosses recently awarded to four New Zealanders serving with the Royal Air Force bring the total of awards to New Zealand airmen since the outbreak of war to 100.

"Many of the awards have been won by New Zealanders who left the Dominion to take up short-service commissions with the Royal Air Force before the outbreak of hostilities," said the Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, in a statement yesterday, "and it is a tribute to the standard of men selected that such a high proportion should merit distinction. They came from farms and offices, from factories and workshops, but, imbued with the spirit of service, they proved ideal types for training, and a large number now hold responsible positions in the Royal Air Force.

"The outbreak of war saw young New Zealanders eager to take their places in the 'Battle of the Skies,' and the training facilities in the Dominion have been extended from time to time to ensure that those coming forward are absorbed with as little delay as possible. The introduction of the Empire air training scheme has enabled more and more New Zealanders to fit themselves in readiness to take their places alongside their brothers further afield.

Daring Raids.

"New Zealand airmen have participated in some of the most daring and effective raids over Germany and Italy, and the awards have been won for bravery and devotion to duty in battle over England, Germany, Norway, occupied France, Italy, and the Middle East. Wherever the Royal Air Force is to be found, there you will find sons of New Zealand worthily upholding the traditions of the Dominion.

"Daily the ranks of New Zealand airmen are being added to; daily the air stations of New Zealand are producing more and more men of the type which has already brought fame and renown to our land and, though there may be dark skies ahead, New Zealanders realize that their sons will not be found wanting in the crucial test that is to come.

"An analysis of the awards," said the Minister, "shows that 75 Distinguished Flying Crosses have been won, three bars to the Distinguished Flying Cross, seven Distinguished Flying Medals, 10 Air Force Crosses, one Distinguished Service Order, three George Medals, and one Croix de Guerre."



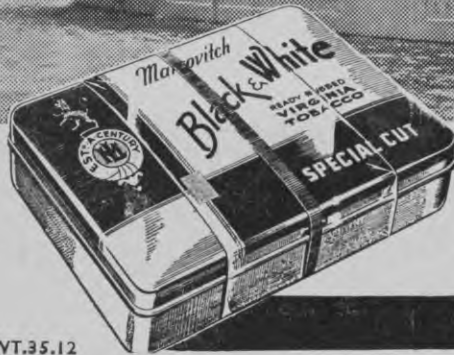
"Listen! Any more of this nonsense about me being overdrawn, my man, and I'll take my balance somewhere else!"

"Daily Mirror"



SHIPS OF THE BRITISH NAVY

"ARK ROYAL." This 22,000 ton aircraft carrier has a speed of 30.75 knots; its length is 800 feet and beam 94 feet: stores 60 aircraft in hangars on two decks. 3 lifts for hoisting aircraft to flight deck. Total cost £3,215,639. Building was started in Sept. 1935; completed in 1938.



BWT.35.12

Leader in its class too, is

Black & White

FINE CUT TOBACCO

MEN FOR AIR FORCE

Educational Training Classes

N.Z. SCHEME ADOPTED ELSEWHERE

"Many a time since the commencement of the war we have been amazed and thrilled by the heroic exploits of our airmen," said the Minister of Education, Mr. Mason, in an address last night on education for the Air Force. "With admiration and gratitude we have beheld the skill, courage and triumphant success with which they have met and defeated stronger hostile forces. These great and dramatic events do not happen without great preparation."

An explanation of one phase in the preparation of New Zealand airmen—the preliminary educational training scheme—was given by Mr. Mason. This scheme, he said, was one of the ways in which the educational facilities of this country were being utilized to further the war effort. The New Zealand scheme was an essential part of Air Force training here and was now being adopted as a model by other parts of the Empire.

Origin of Scheme.

Discussing the origin of the scheme, Mr. Mason said that in peacetime it was not difficult to secure all the men needed without any special form of preliminary educational training. New Zealand's maximum contribution to the Royal Air Force before the war was no more than about 100 trained pilots a year, with a similar number untrained.

With a war requirement for New Zealand alone running into thousands of pilots annually with a need for more men for the air crews as observers and air gunners, it became obvious that the pre-war scheme of selection did not meet war conditions. The decision was made therefore, to select the man irrespective of his educational qualifications and to bring him up to the necessary standard before he went on to the ground training school. In this way no man of the right type would be missed.

Policy of Committee.

No man of the right type who had completed his primary school course was being rejected by the Air Crew Selection Committee. He was brought up to the standard in the air force classes or by correspondence while carrying on with his ordinary work.

"Already some thousands of men have passed through this preliminary educational course and some thousands of others are in existing classes or are being handled by correspondence," said Mr. Mason. "Its adoption by other parts of the Empire is a tribute to the scheme's value and effectiveness, and reminds us that in this country there is still that strong spirit of initiative which from its earliest settlement has been always a marked feature of our people."

CLUB FOR SOLDIERS

Building Opened In Suva

The Governor of Fiji, Sir Harry Luke, recently opened in Suva a club

for the New Zealand Forces serving in Fiji. Finance for the building of the new premises was provided by the National Patriotic Fund Board of New Zealand, which also made available the funds for the erection and maintenance of two large recreational huts that have been established at different points on the island. A talking-picture plant has been sent and is to be installed shortly in one of the huts, and another is under purchase for the other hut.

The club in Suva will be the social centre of the troops garrisoned on the island. It has been built on a splendid site made available by the Fiji Government, and besides having a pleasing appearance inside and out, offers generous facilities to the soldier.

News Item: "The French are watchful." On the qui Vive la France!



GIRL CONDUCTORS.

To replace men called to the fighting services, women bus conductors are now operating on London buses. A girl is seen on her first day as conductor, receiving her final instructions in her new job.