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INVALIDED HOME 26 Soldiers From Islands

Invalided home after service in the Islands, 26 non-commissioned officers and men have arrived in Auckland. Three of the draft were sent to the Auckland Hospital and the remainder were taken to the Drill Hall for medical examination. Some of the soldiers left for the south by the afternoon's express, and the others will be sent home as early as possible. The men in hospital are Temporary Corporal L. W. De Clifford (Riverton), Private C. G. T. Swiggs (Hastings) and Gunner E. J. Quick (Christchurch).

The others are Company Quartermaster-Sergeant W. Buckley (Auckland), Temporary Staff-Sergeant D. C. Wood (Ashburton), Gunners I. A. Deacon (Hamilton), T. M. Pollock (Otorohanga), Privates C. O. Bates (Auckland), E. L. Bateman (Thames), P. J. Brennan (New Lynn), I. A. Buchanan (Southland), T. Campbell (Christchurch), C. A. Franklin (Whangarei), G. A. Gould (Birkenhead), H. Hamburger (Sydenham), D. Keenan (Otago), T. B. McArthur (Auckland), A. P. McPhee (Te Aroha), D. H. Olson (Auckland), P. Peacock (Gisborne), V. F. Pethie (Ashburton), H. J. F. Rakiraki (Balclutha), M. P. Ryan (Herne Bay), A. Sutton (Auckland), H. C. Taylor (Morrinsville), and R. K. Wilson (Wellington).

AMERICAN GIFT Dental Unit For The N.Z.E.F.

FULLY EQUIPPED
Government's Appreciation
Expressed

A sum of 11,000 dollars, to obtain a fully-equipped, motorized dental unit for the N.Z.E.F. has been presented by Mr. Michael Lerner and others, of New York, to the Hon. F. Langstone, a member of the New Zealand mission to the United States of America.

"This group of generous people have already assisted the 'Anzac' cheque, amounting to 2350 dollars, of which 1350 dollars was devoted toward the purchase of one ambulance for the Anzacs and the balance toward a drive which is being made in New York by the Anzac War Relief Fund," said the Acting-Prime Minister, Mr. Nash, making the announcement last night.

"Five ambulances for New Zealand and 15 ambulances for the Middle East have already been provided.

"The Government is most appreciative of the splendid gesture which is being made by our United States friends in connexion with our war effort, and the facilities which are being provided will be most welcome and acceptable to our forces overseas."

THE AIR FORCE SPIRIT

Typical of the spirit and unquenchable optimism of the Royal Air Force is a letter which has just been received by an Auckland advertising agency from a flight lieutenant in Durban. He is seeking an after-the-war position as an advertising man, in which work he has already had much experience, and shows modesty as well as enterprise when he writes: "May I at least get ahead of some of the other men (and immediately behind those of your own men who are serving with the colours) in asking for a chance when I can finally get out to New Zealand?" He encloses a photograph and concludes by inviting the firm to make an interesting experiment by giving a trial job to "an intelligent advertising man who will be free on demobilization."

FEATS IN THE AIR Daring Spitfire Pilot

PARTY FOR EVERYONE

How a Spitfire pilot narrowly averted a collision with a parachuting German whose Messerschmitt he had shot down over northern France is told in an Air Ministry bulletin. Describing the incident, the pilot said:

"The flight began at a great height, when I approached the Messerschmitt and followed it down as it dived away from my attack. We were diving almost vertically, reaching a speed of over 450 miles an hour, and after a three-mile descent I began to over-haul him. By this time ice was forming on my windscreen, but I kept the Messerschmitt in sight, and when close enough gave him bursts from my cannon. Pieces of the Messerschmitt began to fly off as the downward rush continued. One large piece whizzed past my cockpit and struck my tailplane.

"We had got to within 2000 feet of the ground when the German pushed his hood back and baled out. I was only 50 yards behind him—or about a quarter of a second away, at nearly eight miles a minute. I acted immediately, but the Spitfire had scarcely begun to answer the controls in that split second when I was on the German. My wingtip missed him by less than a yard. The abandoned aircraft went on diving, shedding its wings before it crashed on the ground. I did not see the pilot again."

By this victory the Spitfire pilot scored the hat trick. It was his third victim in three successive operations and his fourteenth victim in all.

One Of The Best Parties Yet.

The wing commander of another fighter wing, who shot down a Messerschmitt and damaged several others, described the British fighters' work over France yesterday as "one of the best parties ever."

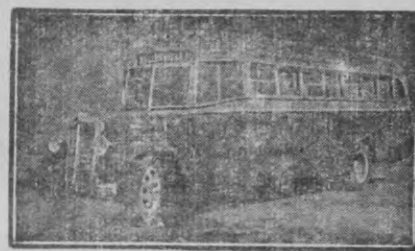
"We were over our target when we saw 18 Messerschmitt 109 F's flying in line astern," he said. "I detailed two other Spitfires to follow me around to attack them head on. They quickly broke up into pairs, but I managed to get in quick bursts at three of them. Soon there was a party for everybody.

"One Messerschmitt that I hit went down in a vertical dive with black and white smoke pouring behind. I attacked another which also began to go straight down, and I jumped on him and chased him down vertically, firing with my machine-guns most of the time. He burst into flames. This party happened over a wood, which from the sky looks like a big map of England, and it gave us a kick seeing the Huns go scrambling down."



"Keep your pecker up, Ginger! —We're not sunk yet!"
"Daily Mirror"

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Nurse: "Yes, I told him it would be months before he'd be well enough for his relatives to call on him."

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