

**MOUNTING STRENGTH**

**Dominion Air Forces**

**AUSTRALIA'S EFFORT**

The steadily mounting strength of the Dominions is reflected in recent news of the Australian and South African air programmes. Australia's export of aeroplanes in 1942 will exceed £12,000,000 in value, with a total production value of £20,000,000, according to Mr. John Storey, Commissioner for Aircraft Production.

A large percentage of the aircraft produced will be Beaufort medium torpedo bombers, the fastest of their type in the world.

The opening of additional schools is enabling a constantly increasing number of Australian airmen to be trained in their own country. The ground crews are now trained entirely in Australia. One-fifth of the pilots and a quarter of the air gunners, observers, and wireless operators still finish their training in Canada under the Air Training Scheme, and some are sent to Rhodesia, but these proportions are growing less.

Speaking at the coming-of-age of the South African Air Force on Monday, Field-Marshal Smuts said South Africa which started the war with an air force of only one squadron and a total of 1500 pilots and mechanics, today had over 2000 pilots and additional personnel of at least 25,000, of which about 3000 were women.

In co-operation with the British Government South Africa was building up a far more powerful air force which would involve a total of 50,000 men and women.

**REG. STILLWELL'S WELCOME DANCE CLUB**

FOR

**MEMBERS OF H.M. FORCES AND CIVILIANS TOO . . .**

**8 p.m. EVERY SATURDAY**

**MAYFAIR, CUBA ST., WELLINGTON**

Mixed Dancing

Special concession to His Majesty's Forces

The Dunedin Public Library possesses the most complete collection in New Zealand of camp and troopship magazines of the last war and is making every effort to build up an equally complete collection of the magazines of this war.

Copies of "Camp News" are at present being preserved. If you come from Otago, remember to send the Dunedin Public Library a copy of your troopship or overseas magazine.

**SOLDIERS, SAILORS, ARMEN and Ladies too!**

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**SERVICE CLUBS**

**Generous Hampers Received From Country**

The wintry spell of weather experienced in Wellington last week made the A.N.A. Club a busy centre, as men of the Services used this cosy retreat to the full. A generous friend is paying for the renovation of a couch and two chairs. Still more couches and comfortable chairs are urgently needed, and the executive would be very grateful for the gift of these.

The cafeteria was particularly busy during the week and at the weekend, and the catering committee is grateful to those generous people so far from Wellington who assist them in their work by sending provisions. Hampers were received from the following:— A recently-formed committee of Marton women, per Mrs. Duncan Simpson; Masterton Country Women's Club, per Mrs. Donald James; Mangapakeha branch, W.D.F.U., Masterton; donation from Air Force relations, Wanganui, per Mrs. Gifford Moore; carton home-made jam, Mrs. E. B. Gordon, Marton. Assistance in the cafeteria has been given by a group of Lower Hutt women, members of the Victoria League, English-Speaking Union, A.N.A. helpers, Air Force relations, and A.N.A. girls' auxiliary.

The dances are always popular and well attended, and this weekend were in the charge of Misses Mildred Cardale, Diana Brodie, Barbara Phelan, and Rita Thomson, members of the girls' auxiliary.

**BRITISH SAILORS' SOCIETY**

A good crowd of Air Force men and seamen attended the British Sailors' Society social evening on Saturday, when girls of the Chart and Compass Club were in charge. Fifty men enjoyed a hot tea in the clubrooms yesterday, this being followed by a service and social hour. Supper concluded the programme. The society would be very grateful for gifts of suitable magazines for use in the rooms as many men come in during the week to write and read and a new supply of books is urgently required.

**WEEKEND AT Y.W.C.A.**

Generous donations of foodstuffs from one of the bands of helpers, the St. Andrew's Ladies' Guild, were much appreciated at the Y.W.C.A. on Saturday, when, as usual, the tea and dance for men on leave was well patronized. The other helpers included members of the Wellington-Khandallah Croquet Association. Yesterday the Rona Bay canteen group gave much appreciated help. In the evening, the Rev. J. Churchill conducted a short service and Mrs. J. Hastings arranged a programme of items. Those taking part were Miss Ida Lockwood, violin solos, Mrs. G. Young, songs, Mrs. Hastings and Mr. R. Nelson, sketches, the accompanist being Mrs. Bird.

**ITEMS FROM "ROSE MARIE" AT SPINSTER'S CLUB**

Spring flowers made the Spinsters Club rooms specially attractive at the weekend, when many men on leave from the camps were entertained. Jars of pink camellias, low bowls of forget-me-nots, anemones and stocks on the little blue tables made an attractive note of colour. The visitors were entertained with a special programme last evening, including an operatic dance by Miss Ngaire Harrison, a ballet from the "Rose Marie" company, humorous anecdotes by Miss Eva Moore, songs from "Rose Marie" by Mr. John Linaker, and a contortionist item by Miss Joyce Smith. Miss Gwenyth Greenwood was the accompanist. All the performers were enthusiastically applauded by the large audience.

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**TEA DANCE POPULAR ON SATURDAY**

There were 200 present at the National Union's tea dance at the National Club on Saturday evening, when Misses Josephine Russell and Shirley Spears were joint conveners of the girls who assisted with serving tea. Yesterday, more than 100 men of the Forces enjoyed the restful atmosphere in the warm clubrooms and the meals prepared by members of the Wellington East electorate under the convenership of Mrs. H. E. Avery.

**AT WEBBY'S CLUB**

Time and again Webby's Club has proved to be a popular rendezvous for men of the fighting services, and in spite of the inclement weather which prevailed at the weekend large crowds were in attendance. Yesterday was no exception and the girls who acted as hostesses found themselves kept busy entertaining their old friends of the forces, and welcoming many new ones. An informal tea with hot soup and delicious savouries was served and the excellent music supplied by Peter Jefferies added to the enjoyment of the day.

**ENJOYABLE PROGRAMME AT Y.M.C.A. TEA**

Members of the Y.M.C.A. girls' auxiliary, with their president, Miss Mavis Burnley, were hostesses at the Y.M.C.A. soldiers' tea yesterday. Mr. R. H. Nimmo was chairman and a special guest was Flight Lieutenant Gladstone Hill. The monthly birthday cake, made and iced by three girls of the auxiliary, was cut by Miss Burnley. It was decorated to represent the three arms of the Fighting Services.

A special feature of the items given were duets and solos from "Rose Marie," presented by Mrs. Merle Gamble and Mr. Ray Trewern. These were greatly appreciated and the artists re-

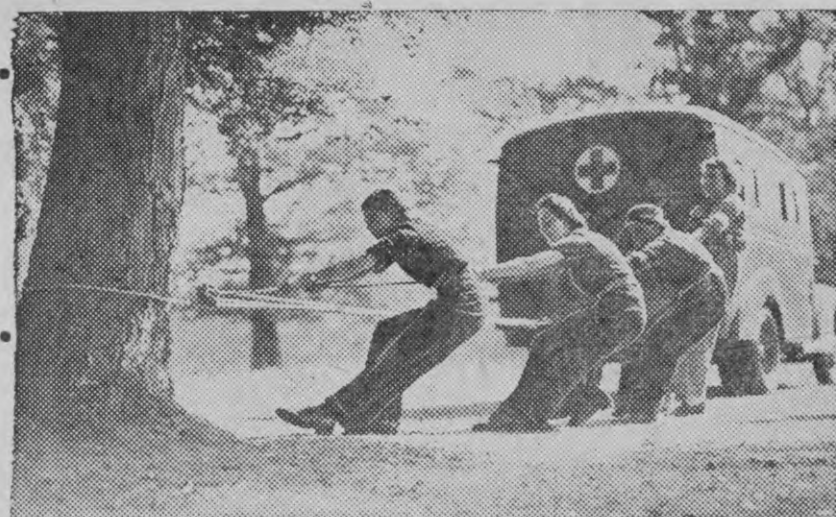


"Someone is talking about me, my ear is itching."

**THREE GIFT CANTEENS READY**

Three of the five gift mobile canteens for the New Zealand Forces in the Middle East, which have been under construction at Petone, are ready, and Mr. G. A. Heyden, secretary of the National Patriotic Fund Board, said yesterday that the other two will be finished early next week.

called several times. Mrs. I. Halligan gave elocutionary items, and Corporal Charles Cathcart, R.N.Z.A.F., gave whistling solos. Mr. J. Buchanan was the accompanist. The usual minute's prayer for those serving in the Forces overseas was observed.



Girls of the Women's Mechanised Transport Corps in Britain, members of a party of 58, training for Ambulance duties in Kenya.