

Camp News

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VOL. 3. NO. 139 Wellington, Friday, September 11, 1942

When the Fight Starts the Rear Gunner Takes Over.

By E. H. CHRISTIAN in the "Daily Mirror."

In the life of every air gunner may come a brief few seconds when he jumps to the position of General of the Air.

Short though his command may be, those few seconds are packed with thrills and danger, with sudden death for the loser.

Now R.A.F. tactics give him his temporary promotion.

When a day bombing raid is made now, a rear gunner of the flight becomes the leading air gunner. He comes into his command when enemy fighters attack, not only as General, but as broadcaster and huntsman as well.

He takes command of all the planes in the flight. He gives them and his own pilot a commentary on the attack and directions to meet it. The jargon he uses is borrowed from the Navy and the hunting field, in an odd mixture.

"Tally-ho" he calls over the radio-telephone. "Tally-ho. Bandits 1,000 yards up on the red beam. Turning in now . . . 800 yards . . . 600 yards. Stand by to go to port . . . Go!"

In tight formation the planes wheel together, to turn on the attackers their maximum combined fire power. The guns start their harsh chatter, the bullets rip into the bodies of the enemy fighters.

"Breaking away to green beam," calls our leading air-gunner (red and green indicate, Navy fashion, port and starboard). "Breaking away . . . attach broken . . . over."

His pilot takes command again, and our general is an air-gunner once more in his transparent turret at the end of the plane.

The attack may have lasted less than a minute, but to meet it he underwent months of rigorous training, and he must be alert.

"Tail-end Charlie," as he is called

in the RAF, sees the air war backwards from his turret. He's a Jack-of-all-trades—little publicised — but doing a great job. He gets 8s. 3d. a day, a half-wing on the breast, and the most uncomfortable ride of all the plane's crew.

Every movement of the plane's nose is accentuated by the tail planes. While he's bumping up and down, he's also swinging from side to side in his rotating turret.

That powered turret is his great blessing. While on a flight he keeps it continually traversing, so that no fighter can creep up on his blind side.

The sight of that turret with its wicked looking guns has been enough to frighten off many an attack, without the gunner opening fire.

But he is tightly cramped in his egg-shaped cage, and suffers intensely from the cold. He cannot move from his post from start to finish of a flight, yet all those hours of alert expectancy may lead to no action at all. His one consolation then is the grandstand view he gets of the fireworks when the bombs scream down to the target.

"Tail-end Charlie" learns three trades—wireless operation, gunnery, and photography, with a smattering of hydraulic engineering for his turret. He may need all three on one trip—or none of them.

Searching the skies at night is not as easy a task as it sounds. Staring into blackness, the eyes are liable to fix-focus on one plane, missing anything beyond or in front of this range.

But in our new giant bombers the gunners are getting more action. Huge as these planes are, they are highly manoeuvrable, and in many a combat it is the enemy fighter who goes down in flames from the air gunner's fire. "Tail-end Charlie" is starting to notch up his "kills."

Older Army Men have to be Tough

It isn't just the youngsters who are in khaki now. Their fathers are joining up—and they're finding that their age doesn't let them off stiff training.

The older you get, the tougher you have to be.

That is the present-day army—according to its new recruits.

In training depots of every corps and regiment throughout the Army, training has been stiffened up gradually during the past eighteen months.

And now the daily programme of men just recruited to the Army, is designed to make the average man of forty as tough as the youngster of twenty who was called up a couple of years ago.

Two sessions of P.T., two more of arms drill, a couple of lectures and two more periods of foot drill — "square bashing"—makes up the full and hectic day of the new recruit to Britain's older and tougher Army.

Even such staid and technical

branches of the Army as the Ordnance Corps and the Medical Corps, now have their cross-country running in full battle order, with practice in the transport of stores, equipment and "patients" over rough country, and across rivers.

Men of forty, many of them following eighteen-year-old sons into the Army, find the easy training conditions, about which their son told them two years or so ago, very drastically revised.

"My son had nothing like this to go through," is the plaintive cry of many a man now joining up, and going through the new style training.

But the older men do not crack up under the strain of their long and strenuous days—largely because their programme has been scientifically planned in collaboration with medical officers and civilian specialists.

It was anticipated that the percentage rate of sickness would grow in proportion to the increasing age of recruits to the Army, but this has not



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proved to be the case in actual practice.

"Tummies" and short-windedness soon disappear under the graduated system of P.T., now adopted by the Army Council as standard for all new recruits.

And men who have for years been living quiet and sedate lives, with the minimum of manual labour — are, within three or four months, as tough, if not tougher, than the lads who have led the comparatively easy lives of "old soldiers" for the past two years.

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CAMP EDUCATION

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LECTURES AND CLASSES

Every unit in the British Army, every battalion, battery and similar formation, was ordered by the War Office to provide itself with a Unit Education Officer within six months of the outbreak of war. Men were selected from those already serving in the unit and they carried on this work in addition to their ordinary military duties. The British system of Army education, which is organized and administered by a staff distinct from the Army Education Corps which undertook the education of the pre-war professional soldier, uses four agencies. University regional committees which cater for extra-mural activities in time of peace provide a number of lecturers; there are the local education authorities which assist specially in vocational work through technical schools; there are correspondence classes for which the men pay a registration fee, rather as an indication of their serious intentions that with the hope that the cost of the organization will be covered; and finally there are unit schools conducted if possible by one of its officers.

As in Australia, the system, due to the exigencies of the service resulting in uncertain hours and variable facilities, has its limitations, specially for students with a professional objective, but it supplies for many a mental stimulus which cannot be derived from games and entertainment. For a long time it was put on a par with welfare and recreation and regarded as an additional comfort for the troops quite unrelated to training either as soldiers or citizens. There has, however, been a change within the last 18 months accelerated by the landing of garrisons in such isolated outposts as Iceland. In such places the educational courses have become compulsory.

Use of Amateur Talent.

An early progress report on the British system stated that half the lectures and a quarter of the classes were on subjects connected directly with the war: historical, geographical, economic and political. About one-third dealt with scientific topics, vocational and otherwise, while music, drama and literature accounted for about one-tenth. Among the varied subjects were also organ music, psychology, meteorology, and camouflage in nature. The War Office pamphlet on "Education in the Wartime Army" suggests that in the modern army there are thousands of officers and men able and willing to forgo some of their spare time in giving talks and leading discussions groups. It is the task of the unit education officer to discover and utilize this amateur talent. Typical discoveries of this sort are architects who can talk on town planning, local body members and officers who can explain the work of local government, commercial artists who can rouse in others a latent talent for drawing, and students of various studies who can sign-post the way through modern problems.

The winter programme for a Yorkshire battalion is indicative of the range of the scheme. Training was divided into three classes—technical military training ranging from skiing to tactical school, physical training and discipline on orthodox lines, and general education. "The object of general education is to increase mental alertness," stated the syllabus. "Every man will spend one term on education of a specialist or general character according to his previous attainments. Every man will be encouraged to take up a hobby. A battalion exhibition of arts and crafts is being arranged."

Specialist classes were for those with an army second-class education certificate, those who had matriculated, or those who on account of age and employment were more likely to benefit from learning a handicraft. Classes were arranged in book-keeping, shorthand, mechanical drawing, carpentry, metal work, wireless, painting, first aid, pastry cooking, motor mechanics, French and German.

Compulsory Classes.

"Each company and detachment will organize general education," continued the syllabus. "Each man not selected for a specialist class will attend for one term, during which he will not be removed for other duties except in an emergency." Each course consisted of 72 one-hour periods made up as follows:—Arithmetic 20 periods, English history 15, geography and map reading 15, composition and grammar 10, and English literature 12. At the end of the course tests set by battalion H.Q. were held and all who obtained 60 per cent. or more received a certificate.

In the same battalion debates were held on military and other subjects, and the instructions laid it down that "all men should be encouraged to speak at some debate, however briefly."

When the B.E.F. was on the Continent, many classes in French were organized, and in England languages has been a popular subject with Canadian as well as British soldiers. Classes have also been conducted for the teaching of English to foreign troops in Britain—Czech, Dutch, Polish and French.

MUCH OPEN PLAY IN RUGBY MATCH

Auckland Beat Wellington

MARGIN OF SIX POINTS

If not one of the most brilliant, the sixtieth Rugby contest between teams representing Auckland and Wellington at Athletic Park, Wellington, on Saturday afternoon, which was won by Auckland by 19 points to 13, was certainly the most spectacular.

This was due to the presence of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band, which, after the teams had been presented to the Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Cyril Newall, led the players on to the field. At intervals during the afternoon the band paraded the field, and delighted the 10,000 spectators present with their spirited selections while marching and counter-marching.

The teams were:—
Auckland: Sorenson; Boggs, Gregory, Faire; Pearman, Rae; Tetzlaff; Mills, Smith, Wilson, Ryan, Gunning, Pearce, Pike, Gilmour.

Wellington: Kingstone; Hudson, Donovan, S. Jaeger; Hayes, Stott; Johns; White, Beard, Harvey, Foley, Murphy, Stanaway, Bills, Baumber.

Auckland deserved to win because they opened up the play on every possible occasion, and threw the ball about with such abandon that their passes often went into the hands of the opposition. This did not alter the northerners' campaign in the slightest, and in the end these tactics paid. The short-passing indulged in by the Auckland forwards was reminiscent of the 1924 All Blacks.

The Auckland pack, due to expert hooking by Pike, secured the ball from the majority of the scrums, and Tetzlaff, the nippy Waikato half-back, seized every chance to put the men behind him in action.

Though Wellington had a light northerly breeze and a bright sun behind them in the first spell, all they could do was a try scored by Hayes, after an opening made by Donovan, which Kingstone failed to convert.

All the highlights of the match were reserved for the second spell, during which no fewer than 29 points were scored. Interest was kept at a high pitch by the rapid scoring, and the intriguing way in which fortunes fluctuated.

Shortly after the second spell opened, Jaeger handed the ball to Donovan, and the Army centre-threequarter outstripped the defence to score between the posts for Kingstone to convert. Auckland's first score came when Faire made an opening, which allowed Pearman, the Auckland captain, to cross the line in a handy position, but Sorenson's kick was a poster. The Auckland forwards then engaged in short passing, and this led to a try by Pike, but again Sorenson was unable to steer the ball over the cross-bar. Keeping up the pressure, Auckland took the lead when Mills scored a try, which Sorenson improved with a great kick.

Excitement flared up afresh when Wellington attacked strongly, and Stott darted over for a try between the posts, which Kingstone converted to give Wellington the lead, 13-11. The Auckland team were lasting well, and their persistent efforts bore fruit when a brilliant passing movement ended in Pearce scoring near the posts. Sorenson converted to give Auckland the lead, 16-13. Keeping up the pressure, Sorenson increased Auckland's lead with a penalty goal, and the northerners missed another try through a forward pass right under the posts.

An exciting display of open Rugby thus ended in a well-deserved win for Auckland by 19 points to 13.

A feature of the match was the fine displays given by the full-backs, Sorenson (Auckland), and Kingstone (Wellington), who made few mistakes. Their tackling, fielding, and powerful kicking were well-nigh faultless, and but for their sturdy defence the scoring would have been even heavier.

Mr. B. Matthews was the referee.

RONGOTAI BEATS OHAKEA

An exciting North Island final at Athletic Park on Saturday afternoon saw Rongotai beat Ohakea by 13 points to 11. There was little between the teams at any stage, and, if anything, Ohakea had the better of the exchanges. For Rongotai, Mahoney landed a field goal, and Clarke kicked three penalty goals; for Ohakea, Trotter and Youngusband scored tries, one of which was converted by Todd, who also kicked a penalty goal. Clarke, who played a brilliant game at full-back for Rongotai, in addition to his three penalty goals, was chaired off the field by his team-mates. Mr. J. Hepburn was the referee.

Wings for the Army.

Officers and soldiers in the British Army who have qualified as glider pilots or air observation post pilots are now to be issued with wings. They will be worn on the left breast and will consist of pale blue wings with Royal crest in the centre on a black background. The wings, known as the "Army Flying Badge," can still be worn after the soldiers have ceased to be pilots. The badge does not entitle the wearer to any extra pay.

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News for Airmen.

The following announcement appeared in a recent copy of "New Zealand News" (London): "Will the five New Zealand airmen who recently rolled out the barrel, and, after enjoying a beer picnic in Hyde Park, endeavoured to indulge in equestrian exercise, please note that, (a) the barrel has been returned; (b) the taxi-driver told no tales; (c) the manager of the N.Z.F. Club bears them no ill-will; and (d) that the horse is expected to recover."

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away,
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sake;
Toils on from dawn till dark; from
day to day;
Fights back her fears, nor heeds the
bitter ache;
She loves you, trusts you, breathes in
prayer your name;
Soil not her faith in you, by sin or
shame.

Somewhere, a woman—mother, sweet-
heart, wife—
Waits betwixt hopes and fears for
your return;
Her kiss, her words, will cheer you in
the strife,
When death itself confronts you, grim
and stern;
But let her image all your reverence
claim,
When base temptations scorch you
with their flame.

Somewhere, a woman watches—fill-
ed with pride;
Shrined in her heart you share a
place with none;
She toils, she waits, she prays, till
side by side
You stand together when the battle's
done.
O keep, for her dear sake, a stainless
name,
Bring back to her a manhood free
from shame.

—Margaret Scouton.
These verses have found a ready
acceptance among the soldiers who
have passed through the camps, and
we are reprinting them for the benefit
of any who have not read them pre-
viously.

The only difference between civil-
ians and soldiers is the outward dress,
but the environments are generally to-
tally different. In all gatherings of
men — civilian and soldiers alike —
there are good and bad, but in camps
the protecting influence of home life
is sadly lacking. Many who live a
good life at home, find themselves un-
der strong influences in camp, which,
if not withstood, will lead them astray.
How great an influence then is the
memory of a pure woman's love en-
shrined in the heart of the loved one,
and how many men have been kept
from the first step on the wrong road,
by the knowledge that, far away, is a
woman—mother, sweetheart or wife—
who is trusting and praying for her
loved one.

But sometimes even the knowledge
of that love and trust is not great
enough to withstand the flame of
temptation.

There is a power, stronger even
than the love of a woman, which is
able to keep in temptation, and that
is the love of God, implanted in the
heart. The love of God brings a mes-
sage of hope to all. To those who
have gone into sin, and deep sin at
that, the love of God can reach down
and lift up the fallen one and save
him with an eternal salvation. And
when the saved sinner finds himself
confronted with temptation, as he
surely will, then the love of God is
able to keep him and give him
strength to resist.

And how is this love of God to be
had? Just by simply receiving His
Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the

Y.W.C.A. cafeteria to accommodate those
seeking meals during the weekend enter-
tainments. Cafeteria helpers were mem-
bers of the Wellington East College Par-
ents' Association and the Younger Busi-
ness Girls' Club of the Y.W.C.A. The
Karori Y.W.C.A. girls took duty on the
cloakrooms. Supper was given by the
women of St. Michael's Church. Gener-
ous gifts of vegetables from the Russell
Terrace land groups of the W.W.S.A. as
well as other gifts were welcomed. The
Rev. Ashley Petch conducted the Sun-
day service and a sing song and a con-
cert was provided by the Tin Hat Club.

THE MEDICINE MAN

Now Corporal Syd. James,
Of the Medical Corps,
Ran a billiard saloon
In the days of pre-war;
But he joined the forces
In March forty-one,
And the studying of medicine
He promptly begun.
He studied quite hard
For he had a plan,
He'd make himself famous
As a medicine man.
He began to experiment,
By day and by night,
And if the patient did live
He knew he was right.
Well time it went by
As time quickly can,
And now he is known
As the Medicine Man.
He has his own practice
In this Army of ours,
With his own waiting room
And certain fixed hours.
So just bear in mind
If it's ailing you be,
Consult Corporal James
At the Camp R.A.P.
J.P. Ngaruawahia.



"H'm! Better cut out your
health exercises for a while!
They're wearing you down!"
"Daily Mirror"

heart by faith. "For God so loved the
world that He gave His only begotten
Son that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish but have everlasting
life."

"As many as received Him to them
gave He power to become the sons of
God."

This power, this right, this life of
victory over sin can be yours by ac-
cepting Christ.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Instructions as to the insertion or
withdrawal of advertisements in the
"Camp News" must be in writing. Advertisements received without such
instructions will be inserted until
countermanded and charged accord-
ingly.

Alterations to standing advertise-
ments should be handed in by 12 noon
each Monday.

While every care is exercised in re-
gard to the insertion of advertise-
ments, the Proprietors do not hold
themselves responsible for errors or
non-insertion through accident or
from other causes.

All business communications should be
addressed to the Manager. Letters to
the Editor, News Items, etc., to the
Editor.

We cannot be held responsible for
errors in advertisements transmitted
by telephone.

STEWART, LAWRENCE & CO., Ltd.,
Proprietors.

Printed and published for STEWART, LAW-
RENCE & CO., LTD. by Dorothy Eileen
Stewart, Gibbons Street, Upper Hutt, at the
Registered Office of the Company, 3rd Floor,
Whitaker's Building, 11 Manners Street, Wel-
lington, C.I.

EVER INCREASING

Attendance At Service Clubs In Wellington

With ever-increasing attendances
which are proof of their popularity, Wel-
lington's services clubs are continuing to
fill a great need in the leave periods of
men of the forces. Here rest, relaxa-
tion, entertainment, light refreshments,
and often hot meals as well, help to
make servicemen feel more at home.
Staffed by voluntary helpers, the clubs
do all they can for the men, and their
popularity is well earned.

The A.N.A. cafeteria returns show that
double the number of hot meals are pre-
pared and served each week as previ-
ously. There have been extensive im-
provements to the ballroom and annexe,
the orchestral dais has been raised three
feet and shifted back, making more dan-
cing space and improving the acoustics of
the room. Permanent sitting accommo-
dation has been installed around the
annexe, which is used for dancing, relieving
the dancing space in the ballroom.
On Wednesday evening Mrs. J. L. Allen
provided the dance music, L/Ac. Percy
Geddes played extras, and Private J.
Third sang.

The cafeteria committee extends grate-
ful thanks to the following for gifts:—
Karori League of Mothers, substantial
sum of money; Patea Women's Home
Guard, per Mrs. G. P. Broker, case of
provisions and vegetables; Pahiatua and
Eketahuna Red Cross, per Mrs. C.
Walker, two cases provisions; manager,
Kakarama Dairy Co., box of butter; W.
and R. Fletcher, Ltd., per Mr. A. Row-
lands, three cases preserved meat and
paste; T. H. Walker and Sons, Hawera,
carton of cooked ham; Mr. Arthur Hor-
robin, Ohariu Valley, sack of carrots;
Mrs. F. Burgess, Paraparaumu, vege-
tables. Thanks are also extended to
Mrs. H. Rees, Tinakori Road, and Mrs.
G. St. George, Wright Street, for the
gifts of iron boilers.

The girls' auxiliary members are re-
quested to note that dancing begins every
evening at 7.30. Evening frocks are the
accepted wear for Saturday night, ex-
cepting for those members in uniform.

Members of the Ramahi Youth Move-
ment conducted the programme at the
Catholic Services Club during the week-
end. Dancing was the main attraction
on Friday and Saturday nights. A fea-
ture of yesterday's programme was a
character dance, the czardas, by Miss
Kathleen McDonald. Excellent musical
items by visiting servicemen were ap-
preciated by a large audience. Tastily
prepared hot meals were enjoyed by
crowds of servicemen at the club.

An innovation at the Public Service
Women's Club was the tea dance held on
Friday from 5 till 9, a large crowd being
present. During the evening the presi-
dent, Mrs. J. G. Young, announced that
the radio-gramophone had been present-

ed to the club by the Public Works De-
partment, and their representative, Miss
K. Burke, was asked to express the
club's thanks to the Department. Miss
Burke played the first record. A buffet
tea, including hot savouries and scones,
was served. Dancing continued long
after 9 o'clock, the crowd seemingly re-
luctant to leave. The committee for the
dance was the Misses C. Griffin, V.
O'Hanlon, M. McCarthy, J. Hopper, L.
Truman, J. Goggin, J. Wilson, Mr. K.
Mitchell was M.C. An orchestra, con-
sisting of piano and drums, supplied the
music, the players giving their services.
Saturday's dance was popular. The
hostesses were Miss Yorston, Mrs.
Meiklejohn, Mrs. Black, and Miss Shep-
herd. The lounge, with its decorations
of spring flowers, was popular with non-
dancers. Assisting members on Saturday
were girls of the Social Security Depart-
ment.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Meek were host and
hostess for the tea at the Y.M.C.A. last
night, the meal being served by members
of the Y.M.C.A. girls' auxiliary. Special
guests were Mrs. Poole, Mr. Dennis Poole
and Miss Clark. The chairman was Mr.
R. J. Wright. Some 350 men were enter-
tained, the tables being bright with ice-
land poppies. Mrs. Meek was the recipi-
ent of a birthday cake which was shared
by men whose birthdays were in the
same month as hers. Musical honours
were accorded the host and hostess, and
votes of thanks were expressed from re-
presentatives of all arms of the services.
Items were as follows:—Violin solo, Miss
Ruth Reid; vocal solo, Mrs. Echhoff; saxo-
phone quartet, Flight Sergeant Simpson,
Corporal Robb, Corporal Floyd, L/Ac.
Harris; elocutionary item, Miss Monica
Bell; instrumental trio, Miss Ruth Reid,
Miss Ormi Reid, Miss Nora Gray; clar-
inet quartet, Corporal Robb, Corporal
McCaw, L/Ac. Girvan, L/Ac. Harris;
accompanist, Miss Nora Gray. The com-
munity song leader was Mr. H. Hindle,
and the pianist Mr. Wood.

On Saturday night, the secretary of
Webby's Club, Miss Joan Martindale,
presented a birthday gift to the presi-
dent, on behalf of the girls. On the actual
anniversary day a sheaf of flowers was
sent to Mrs. Webb. A band played for
dancing and yesterday's savory tea was
served by women helpers, who as usual
provided cakes for the weekend dances.
The club activities are carried on as
usual at the room opposite the club, this
being kindly lent by Miss Kathleen
Connor. It is hoped that the old club
rooms will be available soon, when the
usual Friday dances will be continued.

Two dances were held at the National
Club on Saturday, the usual tea dance,
at which dinner for the men and a buffet
meal for the girls were served and a
large dance from eight till midnight, sup-
per being served. Misses P. Hogg and B.
McLaren were conveners for the tea-
dance. Mrs. D. J. Pyfe was in charge of
a group of helpers from Wellington West
electorate yesterday. They were Mes-
dames G. Burt, J. D. Willis, A. S. Morley,
A. H. Kitching, J. Frost, List, Misses T.
Wallace, D. Goff and N. Fyfe. Generous
gifts of pork, vegetables and pies were
received for weekend meals.

Several sittings were necessary in the