

Camp News

GRATIS TO H.M. FORCES **ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE WEEKLY** 8 PAGES PRICE .. 2d.

VOL. 3. NO. 146

Wellington, Friday, October 30, 1942

Registered as a Newspaper for Transmission by Post at the G.P.O., Wellington.

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Camp News

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VOL. 3. NO. 146

Wellington, Friday, October 30, 1942

This is Interesting!
WHAT WAS SAID EARLY IN 1941

Hitler really means business in Egypt . . . but he's got to supply his tanks, and we've got a Navy, says Tom Winttingham in the "Daily Mirror."

The Nazi drive through Libya is clearly at the moment the key move of the war. If American estimates are correct, three German armoured divisions have reached the Egyptian border, after moving nearly 400 miles through the desert in twelve days.

This force, under General Rommel, started moving from the point on the Bay of Sirte, El Brega, where our outposts stood just over a fortnight ago. It did not then swing north-eastwards towards the coast. It kept to the desert.

Another German force with few tanks and a considerable number of infantry carried in lorries, took the north-easterly route, missed the British troops withdrawing from Benghazi and Derna, but caught up with these troops at Tobruk.

While this second German force was keeping the British troops busy near Tobruk, the first German force passed almost without hindrance many miles south along the dry, hot tracks, to Bardia.

The normal German armoured division includes about 450 tanks. Allowing a 20 per cent. wastage for breakdowns on this long and hard trip, almost twice as long as any previous German tank drive, we may estimate that three armoured divisions will have 1,000 tanks fit for action for their next drive.

According to Zurich reports, Germans in Berlin are boasting that these tanks will go straight on to Port Said on the Suez Canal.

The position is menacing, but the job will not be as easy as that. General Wavell's forces will try to hold Mersa Matruh, the railhead from which they went forward to defeat the Italians.

Behind Mersa Matruh and south of it into the desert there are defences.

Unfortunately, these defences have to end somewhere to the south. There is therefore a desert flank always open.

It cannot be held by any "defence in depth," as the coastal strip behind Mersa Matruh can.

During our drive against the Italians we could always swing a "left fist" through the desert round behind their forces near the coast. Similarly, during their drive through Libya the Germans have swung their "right fist" through the desert to Bardia and Solulim.

But at some point a pause in the German advance is inevitable. Armoured divisions need supplies. These supplies must come along the 750 miles of road behind them, from Tripoli.

The German right fist is free to swing through the desert towards Egypt; our own right fist is free, because of our sea power, to hit at the German supply line.

The Germans may need to pause for as long as three weeks, or for a shorter time, to get forward their fuel, food and other supplies.

If we can use sea power to cut their supply route, they may have to go back.

While the brief and feverish pause occurs in this desert fighting, a similar pause, probably of shorter duration, can be expected in the Balkans.

There the most dangerous German thrust came, as I predicted recently westward from Bulgaria to cut the Yugoslavs off from the Greeks.

It is the same manoeuvre as a year ago, when British, Belgian and some French forces were cut off from the main Allied army.

Here also the advanced German units need supplies. And they need a new supply route, the direct railway from Belgrade to Salonika.

When that line is cleared and the supplies get down it, the German armoured divisions are likely to move from Monastir southwards.

The danger here is that Greek troops in Albania may be cut off; because of this we may expect the Greeks to withdraw the right of their line in Albania.

At the same time they may try to attack the Italian along the sea coast, in the hope that they can join up with the Yugoslav army through Albania.



MALTA—A 3-in. Mortar crew laying a smoke screen during an Army tactical demonstration which took place despite air raids over the island.



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"Daily Mirror"

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(7)

TANKS FOR THE MEMORY.

Who "invented" the first tank?—no one.
Who designed the first tank?—Major Wilson and Sir William Tritton.
Who built the first tank?—Sir William Tritton at Lincoln, England.
Who authorised the expenditure of public money for the first tanks?—Mr. Winston Churchill.
When did they first go into action?—September 5, 1916.

* * *

EXTRACT FROM LECTURE BY N.C.O.

"Your rifle is your best friend; treat it as you would your wife. Rub it all over with an oily rag every day."

* * * * *

ARMY MULE.

The following is an inscription marking the last resting place of an Army mule.

In Memory of Maggie, who in her time kicked
2 Colonels
10 Captains
42 Sergeants
432 Other Ranks, and
1 MILLS BOMB.

* * *

ONE HEIL DESERVES ANOTHER.

A German soldier entered a large department store in Oslo, Norway. He marched towards an elderly sales lady, clicked his heels smartly, and barked: "Heil, Hitler, Where is the hosiery department?"

The sales lady placed her hand solemnly over her heart and replied, "God Save our King, three floors up."

* * * * *

"LET'S HOPE SO."

New Recruit to Officer (after first attempt at grenade throwing by recruit squad): Excuse me, sir, but have the Japs the same method of grenade throwing as we have?

Officer: "Let's hope so. It's your only chance."

HOSTELS THAT PAY

Patriotic Committee's Ventures

Hostels set up for the accommodation of servicemen of all nations in Wellington by the Metropolitan Patriotic Committee are not instituted for profit, nevertheless, a report submitted to yesterday's meeting of the committee by the honorary treasurer, Mr. B. O. Peterson, showed that they pay their way. This committee runs two hostels, one in Sydney Street, and one in Dixon Street, the latter only opened eight weeks ago.

Mr. Peterson said that from the opening of the Sydney Street hostel till October 19 last, the total receipts were £4450/7/9, and the expenditure on maintenance was £3883/19/2, an excess of income over expenditure of £566 8/7. The excess of receipts over expenditure for the 12 months ended September 30, was £258/16/7, which, he thought, was an excellent result. During that 12 months 5791 beds and breakfast, 6082 beds only, and 26,065 meals (at 1/-), were dispensed.

At the new hostel in Dixon Street, the total receipts from September 14 to October 19 for beds and meals were £403/16/-. The total receipts to October 19 amounted to £901/8/3, and the expenditure to £730/11/6. The capital expenditure to date was £4123/3/10. Bed tickets sold for the period under review numbered 507, and the average number of meal tickets each week were 691, compared with 395 for the preceding period.

The chairman, Mr. T. C. A. Hislop in thanking Mr. Peterson for his report, said he thought the hostels were functioning satisfactorily.

COUPON CHARLIE

Have you ever met Staff/Sgt. Hicks, The boss of our Canteen, He has a staff that numbers two Jock Cairns and Baldy Skeen.

Now Ted he comes from Yorkshire Where he ran a grocery store; So they put him in the camp Canteen For the duration of war.

Well Hicksie was delighted, It was his heart's desire, To have another little shop Like the one in old Yorkshire.

He has a system of his own He must conserve his stock; You cannot buy tobacco During the break at ten o'clock.

He will not argue with the boys, And it's no good getting shirty, You buy your smokes right after tea Or next morn before eight-thirty.

He's very strict upon this point And you can't work any rackets; If you want matches with your fags You have to buy two packets.

Now razor blades are very scarce, But Ted has found a way; He's made some little coupons And you get them with your pay.

He has coupons now for everything There's no more reckless buying; If you haven't got your little card You'll waste your time in trying.

He's rationed this and rationed that With him you cannot parley; And that is why he's known to-day As the Canteen's Coupon Charlie.

—J.P.

SYD. JAMES' FIRE BRIGADE

The Hospital Staff have a fire crew The pride of the S.M.O., I recently saw 'em in action, And, boy, what a wonderful show!

The whole thing was so realistic, That I paused for a moment to look, And pounding the alarm was the powerful arm Of Sgt. Jim Brownlee the cook.

First man on the scene was the Fire Chief, None other than Cpl. Syd. James, He kept blowing his Fire Chief's whistle And calling the crew by their names.

He told Lofty Newton to take the first lead, And Weston to stand by the plug; When it comes to a real dinkum fire The Fire Chief's nobody's mug.

There was Martin and Allen, two more of the crew, Assisted by one Sgt. Green, They handled the hose, but the Lord only knows There wasn't a flame to be seen.

Each man was arrayed in a service tin hat And bedecked with a new respirator; But twas Fire Chief James the fighter of flames That appealed to the average spectator.

He was perfectly calm and collected As the fire he prepared to combat; As I glanced toward him I could see a broad grin Directly beneath his tin hat.

For the thing it was only a hoax, There was nary a fire to report, 'Twas Fire Chief James at one of his games To water the new tennis court.

—J.P., Ngaruawahia.

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HUNDREDS WELCOMED

City Service Clubs Have Busy Weekend

Crowds of servicemen on leave found a ready welcome awaiting them at Wellington's many service clubs at the weekend. Here they could have a hot meal, a rest, write letters, or dance, these organizations, between them, supplying all or part of such facilities.

Merchant Navy men introduced a new dance at the Victory Club. It is called the "Hokey Tokey," a novel dance, which is the rage of London at the present time. It proved so popular that it was repeated at both dances. The masters of ceremony were Staff-Sergeant R. Sloan and Sergeant R. E. Robb. The helpers during the weekend included Mesdames Slack, Jeffs and Baker, Misses M. and J. Rae, M. McCabe, J. Day, T. Brearley, G. Moir and Messrs. Henderson and Wade.

The Cinderella Club again entertained a large crowd of servicemen and men of the Merchant Navy. Mrs. Allan and Mr. and Mrs. Koskela supplied music for dancing on Sunday night. The club had its annual meeting recently and a new committee was selected for the year. Mrs. M. Henderson was re-elected president, and the following is the committee: Misses A. McConchie, M. Henderson, J. Spillane, E. Rowband, L. Atkinson, D. Higgins, N. Mitchell, L. Ford, J. Finney, J. Brunt, M. Walsh, J. Handscombe, D. Jamieson, A. Arbow, A. Kelly.

Many servicemen on leave who had difficulty in finding weekend board, had accommodation found for them through the Toe H Club, a gesture which they much appreciated. Last night's concert was given by Taylor's novelty band and the Te Ropu Maori entertainers. Later supper was served by the women's auxiliary, who also dispensed supper at the popular Friday night dance, the fare provided being received through the kindness of interested friends. Gifts of jams and pickles would be welcomed in this connexion. There was a record crowd present on Friday, those not dancing finding amusement in the lounge, where games were played. Two servicemen played for dancing.

The Y.F.H. Club of the Y.M.C.A. entertained servicemen at its weekend entertainments. Members of the Wellington canteen group of the W.W.S.A. and of the de Havilland Aircraft Company helped in the cafeteria, and girls of the Y.W.C.A. residence lent assistance at the cloakroom. Gifts of vegetables were received from the Russell Terrace and Lower Hutt land groups of the W.W.S.A. Yesterday's service was conducted by the Rev. C. E. Perkins and Mrs. A. Lane and her concert party provided the entertainment.

The A.N.A. Club had an extremely busy week and the numbers of men dining in the cafeteria are increasing. Through the good offices of Mrs. E. Clerc and Miss Ralston, the clubrooms have been de-

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corated with spring flowers. The dancing accommodation is proving all too limited for the large numbers attending. An innovation in the ballroom is the installation of electric suction fans which have proved efficacious in purifying the atmosphere and keeping it cool. Special entertainment was provided on Sunday by members of a visiting service orchestra. During the week music for the dances was played by A/c. Allen Brown, Ohakea, Sergeant R. Cumber and E. C. P. Kirkbright, Mesdames J. L. Allen, P. M. Dickson and Miss Chalker. The cafeteria committee thanks friends who, last week, sent gifts to the club. They are as follows:—Carton of jam, Mrs. G. Monk, Reikorangi; boxes of cakes and eggs, Otaki and Te Horo women's emergency committees, per Miss M. Clarke and Mrs. H. Blackburne; two carcasses sheep, Te Apati Station, Havelock North; one carcass sheep, anonymous, Whakatu, Hawke's Bay; sack of vegetables, W.W.S.A., Hutt Valley, per Mrs. L. Pickard. Sincere thanks are extended for the continued help and co-operation given to the club by city business firms who give foodstuffs every Saturday morning.

Hosts and hostesses at the Y.M.C.A. tea last evening were members of the Y.M.C.A. board of directors and their wives, with Mr. R. H. Nimmo as chairman. There was an overflow of guests who were accommodated in the lounge. The tea tables were all decorated with a profusion of pink poppies. The programme was: Songs, Mrs. Wilfred Andrews, Mr. V. Jones, cello solo, Mrs. Aspey, violin solo. Mr. L. Churley Walker, elocutionary items, Miss Flack. Mrs. Wakelin was the accompanist. Mr. Hindle led community singing with Mr. Mann at the piano.

THIRD YEAR BEGUN

Catholic Services' Club

The third year of activities has begun for the Catholic Services Club in Wellington, the rooms being specially decorated for the birthday celebrations at the weekend. At the carnival dance on Saturday, servicemen and their friends danced to the music of an orchestra, under a canopy of streamers, snowballs and balloons. At the close of the dance balloons and snowballs drifted down over the heads of the dancers and were captured as souvenirs.

The highlight of the weekend entertainment was the birthday tea held on Sunday. A monster two-tiered cake made by Miss Eileen Mansfield surmounted the table in front of the guest of honour, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Connolly, V.G. The cake bore the legend, "Catholic Services Club—1940/42," and was crowned with two candles. The appetising fare served, had been prepared by members of the Wellington Catholic Lawn Tennis Association. Several sittings were necessary

Everyman's Hut

UNFORGOTTEN.

I cannot tell why there should come to me

A thought of someone miles and years away

In swift insistence on the memory,
Unless there be a need that I should pray.

Old friends are far away; we seldom meet

To talk of Jesus or changes day by day,

Of pain or pleasure, triumph or defeat,

Or special reasons why 'tis time to pray.

We are too busy even to spend thought

For days together of some friends away;

Perhaps, God does it for us, and we ought

To read His signal as a call to pray,

Perhaps my friend just then has fiercer fight,

A more appalling weakness or decay

Of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right;

And so in case you need my prayer,
I pray.

Friend, do the same for me. If I intrude

Unasked upon you on some crowded day,

Give me a moment's prayer as interlude;

Be very sure I need it, therefore pray.

—Marianne Farningham.

YOUR KODAK SNAPS!

Leave your Films for developing and printing at Everyman's Hut.

KODAK SERVICE

God has said, "Before they call I will answer," and in no other way can many strange experiences be accounted for. The wife of a missionary in a foreign land was dangerously ill, living far away from civilisation. Her only chance of life was in a diet of oranges, and oranges were absolutely unprocurable in that part of the world, and it would take weeks to send a message and obtain a supply. Cast upon God for help, her husband prayed for oranges and then waited for the answer. Within a few hours an abundant supply had arrived and soon his wife was out of danger. How were the oranges supplied? Did God work a miracle in answer to prayer? A letter, accompanying the oranges supplied the answer. Some time before, another missionary friend in a place where oranges abounded, felt an urge to send his friends a supply. He had not heard from them for some little while, and never had the question of oranges been mentioned between them. Nevertheless, the urge to send oranges persisted as though some unseen one was giving the command. And so they were sent, and reached their destination just at the right time many days later. At the time they were sent the need was

at tea to accommodate the crowds. The club's president, Mr. F. G. J. Temm, presided. Music for dancing was supplied by Eric Foley, Andrew Shearer, Ray Smith and Marie Yule. A choir of girl members sang a song entitled "The C.S.C.," lyrics and music of which were specially composed for the birthday by a serviceman who is a constant visitor.

Others who contributed to the entertainment during the weekend were Mr. Frank Rogers and Misses Margaret Gore and Pat Kelly. Miss Winifrede Delaney was hostess. Thanks are extended to the land group of the W.W.S.A. for a large gift of vegetables and to Mrs. O'Reilly for help in the catering. Miss O'Hagan, Otaki, who is one of the club's most generous supporters, was a visitor welcomed.

PERILOUS FLIGHT

Waikato Air-Gunner

HIT BY INCENDIARY

AUCKLAND, October 27.

The story of a perilous flight is told by Flight Sergeant Alan Lewis, formerly of Hamilton, an air-gunner who has had 46 operational flights in a bomber of a New Zealand squadron.

Writing to Mr. W. J. McMiken, of Silverdale, Flight Sergeant Lewis said that when on a trip over Dusseldorf and about to bomb, his machine was hit by flak on the rudder. Soon after this he was hit by an incendiary bomb dropped by a British plane high above.

The bomb was found afterward in the turret, which was rendered useless. The controls were snapped off, and one gun was smashed. As the incendiary passed through the machine it hit Flight Sergeant Lewis on the side of the head and then went through his left hand, which was on the controls.

He managed to get out of the turret and lie down on the bed all the way home. The wireless operator rendered first-aid and an ambulance met the machine when it landed.

Flight Sergeant Lewis said he was sent to a first-class hospital, where he was operated on. His left arm was fractured and four fingers of the left hand had to be amputated. The head wound was not serious, but when he wrote he was still a little deaf.

Describing the hospital as a wonderful place, Flight Sergeant Lewis said he had received the best of everything. He hoped to receive the commission he had qualified for before his misadventure, and to be able to resume duty with the ground staff.

A Welsh public school boy, Flight Sergeant Lewis was employed in Mr. McMiken's orchards at Silverdale before joining the Royal New Zealand Air Force in February, 1940. He was then 28. He was well known in musical circles in Hamilton.

N.Z. Forces Club in London.

The National Patriotic Fund Board has been advised that because of the improvement in the club's finances it is no longer necessary to accept contributions from the board toward the maintenance of the New Zealand Forces Club, London. At a meeting of the general committee of the New Zealand War Services' Association, London, appreciation was expressed of the help given to the association by the Patriotic Fund Board, and it was decided to ask the board to accept a refund of the grants made in the past. These amount to £2812/5/6.

not apparent, so mental telepathy could have nothing to do with it. How then can we account for it? Perhaps you say "Co-incidence," but God says, "Before they call I will answer," and He used one of His servants to answer a prayer which He knew would be made to Him many days later. He knows the end from the beginning.

May we be in that condition of fellowship with Him, that He may be able to use us to answer the prayer of His children.

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 accordingly.

Alterations to standing advertisements should be handed in by 12 noon each Monday.

While every care is exercised in regard to the insertion of advertisements, 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, LAWRENCE & 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, Wellington, C.I.

Friday, October 30, 1942