

Camp News

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GRATIS TO
H.M. FORCES

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE WEEKLY

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As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matters intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor and reach this office not later than 2 p.m. Mondays. Correspondence is invited on topical items of interest. Only business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Extra copies of "Camp News" may be obtained on application to the Manager, "Camp News," 3rd Floor, Whitaker's Buildings, 11 Manners Street, Wellington.

VOL. 3. NO. 149 Wellington, Friday, November 20, 1942

Parachute Troops to Play Important Role

(By "Ordnance," in "Smith's Weekly")

Although parachute troops are mentioned in a general way, little specific information is given regarding them. Everyone should know something of this new and important arm.

Parachute troops have only come into the news on special occasions and the fact is apt to be overlooked that this form of attack holds the interest of General Staffs of all combatant nations.

ALL GENERAL STAFFS NOW INTERESTED.

Powerful military organisation of Nazi Germany came as a rude awakening. Military strength deployed against Russia held all critics spell-bound.

After these years of war we have no excuse, any longer, to be surprised at either the dimension or ruthless application of enemy forces. We now realise that he is straining every nerve to destroy us. In consequence we are becoming more alert to enemy activity, both in equipment and specialist training.

Enemy success in Crete has given great impetus to the organisation and equipment of air-borne troops.

In Poland, a critical situation for the Germans had been saved by the gathering of hundreds of transport planes filling them with troops and dispatching them to the threatened zone. There was no practical way of moving them by land. The air run took little over half an hour, and 4500 troops were thus transported to the point where they were urgently required.

Sudden change in British fortunes in Norway was not understood at the time. It has since come to light that strong detachments of German parachute troops were dispatched to road junctions and vital centres far ahead of the armoured columns, at times in rear of British advanced troops.

Overwhelmed and decisive role played by air-borne troops in the capture of aerodromes was a main factor in quick elimination of Dutch and Belgian resistance, and in speeding the German advance on Dunkirk.

Difficult approach through the Ardennes rendered main German advance through this region improbable. So the Allies' weakest defences faced this forest frontier. Rommel's quick emergence from the Ardennes gave German armoured columns the overwhelming advantage of complete surprise—a surprise made possible by the parachute troops who took and held the main passes in advance, and dissolved even remnants of opposition in this tortuous terrain.

Perhaps it was the prevention by an overwhelming landing of parachutes of demolition of the Meuse bridge by the French that spelt the rapid dissolution of Allied resistance in France and Belgium. No time was allowed the French Ninth Army to gather its strength against the invader. Tank columns swept across and fanned out behind the breach made in French defences.

Followed by motor columns, they pressed on with ever-increasing vigor. As organised opposition grew less, swarms of enemy motor cyclists, armoured cars and motorised forces drove through and around vital centres and reached out to the Channel

ports. There was no time for Allied readjustments. No chance was given to re-form. Parachutists had unlocked the Meuse flood-gates. Western Europe was engulfed to become the slave pool of Nazidom.

Poland, Holland, Belgium, France, Norway, then Greece at the Corinth Canal Bridge, saw German planes, in groups of three, descend to 300 feet after their heavy bombers and fighters had pulverised the area and spill their parachutists, and equipment and stores.

Almost 1000 parachutists were down in half an hour. Within 10 minutes of landing they were in action.

Capture of Crete by enemy air-borne troops was a staggering blow. Persistence in the face of heavy casualty, and absence of weakening in resolve because of difficulty, achieved ultimate success for the air-borne invader.

Much has been learned by both sides in this brief and disappointing campaign. Our naval and shipping losses were material and our manpower losses severe.

Dimension of Germany's Army strength in Russia and other theatres has rather tended to divert attention from the decisive advantage provided to German land columns by enemy air-borne troops at every critical stage.

That they should prove so effective is not mere chance. Air-borne operations demand the most meticulous care in preparation. Selection, training, and inspiration of personnel has been a long process. Immediate advantage is taken of every experience gained. Long and continuous preparation has developed the power of air-borne forces, and made land force personnel usable to swell the air battalions.

In the years following the last war it was left to the Russians to discover the tremendous potential value of the parachute in war. Contemporary comments of other nations were not untouched with derision at Russia's perseverance in the establishment and training of parachute formations. Russia's amazing foresight was treated as freakish at the time.

But Germany was not slow to see in Russia's application of the parachute to the rapid movement of troops the germ of tremendous possibilities in the Blitzkrieg type of war.

Britain and America now have their parachute divisions, based on the experience of both Russia and Germany. Such formations constitute in every great army a new branch of the forces likely to grow so rapidly in importance as its development and equipment will allow.

Parachute troops are, at present, volunteers specially selected for courage and physical fitness. They are young and undergo vigorous and careful training.

Special steel helmets, knee pads, and strapped rubber boots—to take the shock of landing—are provided. Legs are double bandaged from foot to thigh, and special overalls prevent entanglement of gear and parachute when released from the plane.

At first the parachute was opened manually, by the parachutist pulling a metal holder after he had dropped some distance from the plane.



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or Dept. 3, N.Z. Insurance Buildings,
Queen St., Auckland.

Now, an automatic device is provided called a static line. Parachutists are able to slide off in quicker succession and the parachute is opened automatically—allowing them to be released from planes at such low altitudes as three and two hundred feet.

This means that parachute troops can be got down quickly with their stores on to limited areas—which in turn means quicker picking up of arms and equipment, and more rapid concentration for action.

Tommy guns, daggers, hand grenades and machine pistols, and some ammunition, accompany the troops; folded motor cycles, food, extra ammunition and stores are also dropped by parachute, while carrier planes arrive after them — or with them —

(Concluded on page 3)

Photographs

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No. 10.

ARMISTICE DAY, 1918.

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row by row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead,
Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved! and now we
lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands, we throw
the torch.

Be yours to lift it high.
If you break faith with those who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
blow
In Flanders fields.

* * * * *

BASE DEPOT, 1917.

We're a mob of mangled scarecrows,
we're the "category" corps,
We're the ashes of the furnace, we're
the scrapheap of the war.
We're the tins that can't be tinkered,
we're the shoes that can't be soled,
For the welts are off the uppers and
the rivets will not hold:
We're the mugs that can't be mended
for all that's left are bits.
We're the happy "hors de combat"
we're the Permanent Unfits.

We've a varied stock of ailments,
we've some pretty things in scars,
You could dress a fancy-goods shop
with our ribbons and our bars;
We've bullets in our kidneys, we've
shrapnel in our lungs.
We've windows in our faces and slices
off our tongues;
We've some fancy complications, both
curious and rare
From trench-feet in our fingers to
shell-shock in our hair.

Oh, we make a pretty picture every
morning on review,
With our feet and fingers frozen and
our noses red and blue,
When the P.B. Regimental and the
P.B. N.C.O.'s

Line up the P.B. privates in ragged
P. Breros.
When they march us off to duty in the
cook-house or canteen.

To wash the sergeant's spit-pans or
to wipe the swill tubs clean.

To tidy up the tent-lines or to dust
the colonel's coals,

To mince up wiles of bully into moun-
tains or rissoles.

To carry lousy blankets to the fumi-
gating store

And other base employments in the
noble art of war.

PARA TROOPS—concluded
landing small motor vehicles and even
light tanks, artillery and supporting
arms.

Parachute troops landed in hostile
territory are extremely vulnerable for
a brief period during actual landing,
although the drop from low altitudes
is a mere matter of seconds.

Parachutists take some little time
to get their wits after the shock of
drop and landing. Then parachutists
must search for weapons, stores and
equipment, dropped under coloured
parachutes; which means that aero-
drome and vital point guards, if mo-
bile and quick in seizing the opportu-
nity, have a period in which the para-
chutist is comparatively ineffective.

Knowledge in VDC, garrison bat-
talions and other units charged with
defence of localities of the develop-
ment and employment of air-borne

CLOSE FINISHES

Wellington Senior Cricket

ANOTHER CENTURY TO H. G. RICE

Some close and exciting finishes were
seen in the third series of the Wellington
Cricket Association's senior champion-
ship competition on Saturday afternoon,
which were played under ideal batting
conditions.

Good fast bowling by J. Fortune, who
took five wickets for 13 runs, enabled Mid-
land-Wellington to dismiss Petone for
108 runs, but this modest total was just
good enough to give Petone a win by one
run in a thrilling finish. Asplet took
five wickets for 46 for Petone, and C. A.
Blundell played a good fighting innings
for Midland-Wellington.

An equally exciting finish saw Wel-
lington College Old Boys get home from
University by two runs. Effective bowl-
ing by D. Beard, who took five for 42, saw
Old Boys, for whom L. V. Browne and
Barber batted well, dismissed for 157.
The Varsity batsmen found the slow
bowling of G. L. Whyte, G. Reynolds and
R. W. Burnard too good for them, and
the last wicket fell with the score two
runs short of Old Boys' total.

Army, with Dumbleton and Nottman
back from leave, scored their first win
of the season by beating Artillery by an
innings and 73 runs, after declaring their
first innings closed with seven wickets
down for 219 runs. J. R. Stevens hit
up 70 for Army, including a six and
15 fours in half an hour, and S. Cutts
and W. Hayward also forced the pace.
Effective bowling by D. P. Dumbleton,
who took six wickets for 36 runs in the
first innings, and by M. A. O'Brien, the
Army captain, who took seven wickets
for 28 runs in the second innings, saw
Artillery dismissed for 99 and 47. Youl
carried his bat through Artillery's first
innings for 40, and took four wickets for
80 runs.

Karori registered their first win of the
season by beating Air Force by ten wick-
ets, after declaring their first innings
closed with one wicket down for 142. J.
Coupland (84 not out) and Sim (43 not
out) did the scoring for Karori. Good
bowling by G. R. Dickinson, R. W. Coup-
land, T. Searell, and J. Coupland saw
Air Force dismissed for 45 and 109. Bon-
ner and Elton put on 61 runs for the
third wicket in Air Force's second in-
nings.

An evenly-contested game saw Hutt
beat Institute Old Boys by 8 runs. Stear
was the principal scorer in Hutt's innings
of 136, and Rogers and M. Bilby did best
for Institute, who could only total 128.
Bartlett was the most effective bowler
for Institute and O'Reilly, Vogther, Pegler,
Chapman and Muir bowled steadily
for Hutt.

Another brilliant century by H. G.
Rice, the captain, who scored 121 in 110
minutes, including one six and 15 fours,
enabled Kilbirnie to declare their first
innings against St. Patrick's College Old
Boys with 258 runs on for the loss of
eight wickets. Though Phillips and
Mooney batted well for St. Patrick's, the
remainder of the side found the slow
spin bowling of R. Allen, who took seven
wickets for 68, too much for them, and
the last wicket fell at 204, giving Kilbir-
nie a win on the first innings by 64 runs.
Halligan was the most effective bowler
for St. Patrick's College Old Boys.

Following are the results:—

Hutt, 136 (Stear 45, Bartlett four for
23, J. Bilby two for 16), beat Institute Old
Boys, 128 (Rogers 33, M. Bilby 30, O'Reilly
three for 38, Vogther two for 15, Chapman
two for 22, Pegler two for 30), by eight
runs on the first innings. A 5-point win
for Hutt.

Army, 219 for seven wickets, declared
(J. R. Stevens 70, S. Cutts 40, W. Hayward
33 not out, H. Nottman 23, V. G. Hill 20,
Youl four for 80), beat Artillery, 99 (Youl
40 not out, Dumbleton six for 36), and 47
(O'Brien seven for 28, Dumbleton three
for 12), by an innings and 73 runs. An
8-point win for Army.

Karori, 142 for one wicket, declared (J.
Coupland 84 not out, Sim 43 not out), and
16 for no wickets, beat Air Force, 45
(Dickinson five for 20, R. W. Coupland
five for 20), and 109 (Bonner 46, Elton 37,
Searell four for 24, J. Coupland three for
19), by 10 wickets. An 8-point win for
Karori.

Wellington College Old Boys, 157
(Browne 38, Barber 35, Beard five for 42,
Burnard three for 10), beat University, 153
(Stringer 30, de la Mare 30, Adeock 25;
G. L. Whyte five for 50, Reynolds three
for 52, Duncan two for 20), by two runs
on the first innings. A 5-point win for
Old Boys.

Petone, 108 (Denzel 24, Crowther three
for 39, Fortune five for 13), beat Midland-
Wellington, 107 (Crawford 24, C. A. Blun-
dell 49, Asplet five for 48, Flett two for
8), by one run on the first innings. A 5-
point win for Petone.

Kilbirnie, 258 for eight wickets, de-
clared (H. G. Rice 121, Greig 27, Church
27, Halligan four for 39), beat St. Patrick's
College Old Boys, 204 (Phillips 63, Mooney
30, Allen, seven for 68). A 5-point win for
Kilbirnie.

troops is essential to efficient action
against them.

Meanwhile, against the arrival of
the long-wished-for day, when Allied
assault begins on Axis powers, our
Allied parachute and air-borne troop
organisations are receiving that atten-
tion and interest their vital import-
ance merits.

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Overwhelmingly large crowds of servicemen took advantage of the hospitality offered at the clubs this weekend.

The ballroom at the A.N.A. Club was packed with an appreciative audience last night when the Victoria League concert party presented a programme of gipsy numbers in fancy costume. Tap dances and vocal trios were rendered by members of this popular group. Dances during the week were well attended and servicemen who contributed to the entertainment were Private George Taylor, Private 1st Class R. W. Hannah, L/Ac. Lloyd Baker, and L/Ac. Harold Lee. Mrs. J. L. Allen and Miss Loretta Cunningham provided dance music. The cafeteria committee tenders thanks to the following: Mr. K. Ellison, Te Wharau, Hastings, for two carcasses of mutton; Manakau Women's Patriotic Society, per Mrs. Marshall Miles, and Manakau Younger Set, for cartons of provisions and cream cakes; Wanganui Air Force Relations, per Mrs. M. G. Brodie, a monetary donation; A.N.A. helpers, Marton, per Mrs. S. Simpson, case of butter and eggs; Manakau Women's Society, carton of provisions; Manakau Younger Set, carton of cream cakes.

The A.N.A. Club appeals to any citizen or citizens to forward spare periodicals or magazines to the rooms, at 33 Willis Street, as they are urgently required for the lounge.

Wives of members of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association were on duty at the Catholic Services Club yesterday when a record number of guests were entertained. The club expresses thanks to a group of Catholic women at Shannon who sent a well-stocked hamper of provisions that enabled the cafeteria to cope with heavy food demands. High tea was served on both nights to more than 500 servicemen. Special thanks are extended to Miss Trischler and Mr. F. Hurston, Shannon, for organizing the canvass for contributions, and to the following artists who gave items over the weekend: Mrs. McEwen, Mrs. P. Ryan, Miss P. Kelly, and Mr. R. Smith.

A team of workers from the Wellington South electorate, convened by Mrs. J. H. McIlroy, helped at the National Club. A bag of cabbages, forwarded by the Lower Hutt branch of the W.W.S.A., made a welcome cafeteria contribution. On Saturday, Mrs. Roger Roberts and Miss Shirley Spears were hostesses at the National Union tea dance.

The Cinderella Club held its monthly dance on Saturday, at which the introduction of a new dance, the "Honky Tonk," proved popular. On Sunday night the rooms were bright with bowls of roses and rhododendrons. A salad tea was served and music for dancing was

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Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 Midnight.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

WEBBY'S DANCE CLUB

61 LOWER CUBA STREET

(Just above Bruce Woollen Depot, next to James Smith's)

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Saturdays 7.0 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

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Saturdays 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Sundays 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

provided by Mrs. Allen and her orchestra. The club extends thanks to servicemen at a local camp who once again entertained the president, vice-presidents, and club members at a midweek dance. On Friday a savoury supper was served by Miss Daphne Huggins and her helpers, Misses Coie Bush, Marjorie Hicks, Winnie Hall, Lillian Hanratty, and Edith Handley.

Recent activities undertaken by the British Sailors' Society included the supervision of a visit to Featherston by a party of Merchant Navy men. They inspected local beauty spots and were entertained by the mayor of Featherston and the Women's Services Association at the R.S.A. rooms, where they were welcomed by the R.S.A. president and treated to lunch and afternoon tea. They had a meal at the B.S.S. rooms when they returned to Wellington and members of a Maori concert party and the Chart and Compass Club entertained. Outings have also been made to Wilton's Bush and the Khandallah Domain. The Wesley Church Choir, under Mr. H. Temple-White, provided a programme on Sunday week and a concert arranged by Mr. F. S. Jackson was given yesterday. Misses A. Black and E. Lemmon were on duty and the tea was the gift of the Women's Social Progress Movement, organized by Mrs. James Bennie.

TO TRAIN DISABLED SERVICEMEN

New Vocational Centre

GOVERNOR-GENERAL LAYS FOUNDATION STONE

The foundation-stone was laid by his Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Cyril Newall, yesterday afternoon, of the Disabled Servicemen's Vocational Training Centre in Lloyd Street, Wellington, thus bringing nearer fruition a scheme envisaged by the New Zealand R.S.A. as long ago as 1930 and since fostered by the Disabled Servicemen's Re-establishment League, to whom the Rehabilitation Board had delegated the responsibility of providing suitable vocational training for men of the forces who by reason of their war disabilities were unable to return to their pre-war occupations.

His Excellency, on arrival, inspected guards of honour provided by officer cadets of the C.S.L., and by the War Amputees' Association respectively.

"There can be no man or woman in New Zealand who is not conscious of the vast and irredeemable debt which we owe to those who have fought and

Everyman's Hut

THE VICTORY MESSAGE.

"I can offer you nothing but blood and toil,

Tears and sweat," he said.

Our courage was high though our hearts were sad

As we thought on the way ahead.

But what did we offer to Him who came

On earth to set us free?

Nothing but blood and tears and pain
As He hung on Calvary's tree.

Yet in glory and triumph He rose again:

So must our cause prevail,

As forward we go with united strength,

It will not be suffered to fail.

The way may be long, the task be hard,

But to us shall be victory;

Though first we must suffer the blood and tears,

And face our Calvary.

So onward we go in hope and faith
To that Resurrection morn,

When form blood and toil and tears and sweat

World peace shall be reborn.

VIOLET FRASER.

Kurow R.D.

Ever since Mr. Churchill assumed the responsibility of first Minister to His Majesty the King, he has been at pains not to minimise the burdens to be borne—the tasks to be performed before victory could be assured. He has rallied the people as never before, not by rosy promises for the future, but by the grim stark facts of "blood and toil, tears and sweat." Plans have had to be prepared and decisions made in the light of the knowledge available at the time, and, doubtless, history will reveal many mistakes. But in spite of setbacks, in spite of being misjudged and mis-

are fighting for us by sea and land and air," said his Excellency. "By their heroism and with their sacrifices they are securing the future for us and our children. Nothing that we can say can express the measure of our gratitude, nothing that we can do can repay them adequately. But this fact must serve only to spur us on to do our best; for it is our absolute duty to do all that we can to show how genuine that gratitude is, and to show it in our actions as well as in mere words.

"This training centre, and the other centres which will be built elsewhere in New Zealand, will make a really practical contribution to the welfare of the men to whom we owe so much. In this building, those who have been disabled in the service of their King and country will be taught to triumph over their disabilities, as they have triumphed over their enemies.

"They will be taught not only to make use of the artificial limbs and other surgical appliances which science has made available for the easing of their burdens, but also they will learn to do a job so that they can take their places as full and useful citizens of the land for which they have given so much. The ability to fend for themselves will be worth more to them than any charity, however lavish.

"The laying of this foundation-stone comes at a most appropriate time. The victory in the Battle of Egypt and the landing of Anglo-American forces in North Africa have thrilled us all. The Eighth Army, consisting as it does of men from all over the Empire, has done what we all knew it would do when given the necessary equipment. In this the men from New Zealand, your own sons and brothers and friends, have taken their full share. Once more has New Zealand's name been written large in the history of human courage and endeavour.

"Such victories cannot be won without great loss and sacrifice. Some of those men will never return. Others have been maimed for life. Let us all resolve here and now never to forget what they have done for us. Let us determine that the land which they have given so much to save shall be worthy of their sacrifices. Let us vow that those who return shall find the welcome they deserve and the help which they may need. Only thus shall we keep faith with them and with their comrades whom we shall not see again."

understood, he has held steadily on his course, stuck grimly to his task of guiding the Empire through the storms of war. Always has he counselled patience and perseverance and a trust in the Almighty God Who must one day cause the powers of evil to be overthrown. In facing up bravely to the worst that may befall, keeping nevertheless his rugged optimism in belief of ultimate victory, he has become the symbol of the Empire's spirit. In a prison camp in Germany where many of our boys are interned, they have a little pet dog which they have called Churchill. The Germans are amazed that the name of the leader of the nation should be given to a dog. They cannot understand the spirit of loyalty and gratitude which finds expression in thus naming a pet which must bring much happiness to them in their restricted freedom.

And now the tide shows signs of turning. Patience and perseverance are bearing fruit and the long silent church bells of Britain have pealed out their songs of thanksgiving for victory attained so far.

May their peals be the beginning of a spiritual awakening throughout the nation, and of increased prayer, not on special days only, but every day that we may so conduct ourselves that we may be found worthy of God's help until this terrific conflict ceases and peace once more reigns, and also in the post-war world reconstruction.

THE COLONEL'S HEEL

Now here's a tale
That will appeal,
'Tis about a Colonel
Who lost his heel;
'Twas a Sunday morn,
In the month of May,
And the camp bootmakers
Were all away.
There was no one
To tack it on,
And the Colonel swore
In language strong;
He tried to walk,
His looks were black,
His step did sound
Like Peg-leg Jack;
With every stride
He bobbed up and down,
The missing heel
Sure made him frown.
He cursed the snobs
Who were away;
The air was blue,
And black and Grey;
His voice boomed out
In a thunderous peal,
Go find a man
To fix my heel.
They scoured the camp
From end to end,
But not a man
The shoe could mend;
And then at last,
In great despair,
His batman said
You've another pair.
Well bring them out,
The Colonel gasped,
I believe the problem's
Solved at last;
And right away
He changed his shoes
And said the batman
Would get his dues.
Here ends the tale,
I believe it's true
The heel came off
The Colonel's shoe;
And it wasn't repaired
Till the following day,
For the bootmakers' staff
Were all away.

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