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SIGNAL CORPS

Colonel-in-Chief

A letter has been received by the Governor-General from the secretary to the King intimating that the Princess Royal has accepted the appointment of Colonel-in-Chief of the New Zealand Corps of Signals.

SMILES

GREAT SCOTT

Two militiamen were spending their first day in London.

Feeling hungry they stopped at a restaurant and read the notice: "Luncheon 12 noon to 3 p.m. Half-a-crown."

"Hey, mon," exclaimed Sandy. "What a chance. Three hours' solid feedin' . . . and all for hauf-a-croon. Come on in."

* * * *

He had passed all the tests and was before the recruiting sergeant, giving particulars.

"Married or single?" he was asked.

"Married."

"Any children?"

"Eleven."

"Sorry, chum. Too expensive. We could get a couple of generals for that money."

ARMY FOOTBALL IN EGYPT

Wellington Battalion's Success

CHAMPION WELSH TEAM BEATEN

(N.Z.E.F. Official News Service.)

CAIRO, April 7.

The Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force enhanced yesterday the reputation which it has gained in the Rugby football world in Egypt. In an exciting and closely-contested match the Wellington Battalion team, winners of the divisional championship competition, defeated a Welsh regimental side which holds the Army Cup.

The score, 11-9, is an indication of the even match of the two teams. The Wellington fifteen did not assume the lead till the last quarter, and though it then began to show superiority, the stubborn defence of the Welsh players kept the margin of their defeat down to a slender two points.

Played on a city ground, the match attracted a large crowd, composed mainly of soldiers, who kept up continuous barracking as they followed the fortunes of the teams they supported. Spirited hahas exhorted the New Zealanders to prove their worth; Welsh supporters hung leeks on the goal posts and a New Zealander answered by placing a military hat on each of the posts at the end of the field. Profits from the match are to be devoted to the funds of the British Red Cross Society.

The teams were:

Wellington Battalion: Vernon; Hunter, Cochrane, R. Arnold; Griffiths (captain), L. Arnold; Littler; Fleming, Robertson, Aitken, Coull, Phillips, Crawford, Hart, Riley.

Welsh XV: Winter; Davies, Mackie, Delaney; Williams, Ibbison; Chapman; Pennel, Owen, Duckfield, Dyer, Edwards, Cowell, Jones, Peters.

Referee: Wing-Commander G. R. Beamish.

The opening phase of the game saw the Welsh team repeatedly winning the ball from the set scrums, but the close marking of the New Zealand backs prevented much use being made of this advantage. Play swung rapidly from one end of the field to the other till the Welshmen opened the scoring with a penalty goal by Owen. Welsh XV 3, Wellington 0.

The Wellington forwards hammered determinedly at the Welsh line. Fleming, Coull and Phillips broke away after a line-out and at the end of a bright passing rush Phillips scored. Griffiths failed to convert. Welsh XV 3, Wellington 3.

With the scores thus evened the match developed into a thrilling struggle for supremacy. Both teams alternately swept to the attack and stolidly defended their goal lines. The issue was decided for the time being when Owen kicked another penalty goal for the Welsh team. Welsh XV 6, Wellington 3.

A brilliant try soon after the resumption of play brought the score level again. Fleming saw his opportunity when a Welsh back fumbled the ball and he took the field by surprise when he dribbled across the goal line to score. Littler failed to convert. Welsh XV 6, Wellington 6.

It was now the Welsh team's turn to score, and once again it was Owen, with yet another penalty goal, who put his team ahead. Welsh XV 9, Wellington 6.

Little more than a quarter of an hour was left and it was at this late stage that the tide turned in favour of the Wellington players. The forwards took the ball at their toes and penetrated the Welsh territory, where R. Arnold gained possession and scored near the corner. Littler converted and New Zealand soldiers on the sideline threw their hats in the air. Now clearly on top, the Wellington team kept the Welshmen defending till the end of the match.

INTER-UNIT MATCHES

Championship Won By Wellington Team

(N.Z.E.F. Official News Service.)

CAIRO, April 2.

Its succession of victories unbroken at the end of the eighth and final match, the Wellington Battalion's Rugby football fifteen has won the New Zealand Division inter-unit championship competition and become the first holder of the cup presented by the Divisional Commander.

Last week Wellington met and staved off the challenges of its two strongest competitors, the Auckland Battalion and the Machine-Gun Battalion. The former team went close to halting the progress of the Wellington fifteen, losing narrowly by two points. The other match, played on Saturday, was the decisive one, for the Machine-Gun Battalion had previously suffered only one reverse. Wellington was victorious again, however, winning by 11 points to nil.

Wellington's success was another feather in the cap of the team's captain, J. L. Griffiths, former All Black, for it was he who led the New Zealand representatives to victory against a Combined Services team at Easter.

Last Saturday's "cup final" was played in abnormal heat on one of the desert grounds in the New Zealand camp area. There was every expectation that the game would be one of the closest of the series, and so it seemed for the first half, which ended without score. In the second half Wellington took advantage of greater possession of the ball, and the backs were sent away on attacking moves which the machine-gunners were unable to check. Tries were scored by Cochrane and R. Arnold in quick succession, and another by Phillips. Griffiths converting.

The machine-gunners' team had undergone alterations which robbed it of some of its strength and dash. Earlier in the season its back line had been made up almost entirely of former South Canterbury representatives—Parsons at half-back, Blythe at first five-eighths, Gaffaney at centre, Morrison on the wing, and Rollinson at full-back. On Saturday, however, Parsons and Gaffaney were the only available members of this quintet.

The cup was presented after the match to the Wellington captain, Griffiths, by Mrs. Freyberg, wife of the Divisional Commander, who also presented medals to members of the team.

Results of the sixth and seventh rounds of the cup series are as follows:—

Sixth round: Machine-Gun Battalion 21, Divisional and Brigade H.Q. 0; Wellington Battalion 9, A.S.C. 3; Auckland Battalion 14, Cavalry and Ambulance 5; Canterbury Battalion 14, Signals and Engineers 3; Field Regiment 0, R.M.T. Company 0.

Seventh round: Machine-Gun Battalion 8, Canterbury Battalion 5; Field Regiment 3, Cavalry and Ambulance 0; Wellington Battalion 5, Auckland Battalion 3; R.M.T. Company 11, Divisional and Brigade H.Q. 3; A.S.C. beat Signals and Engineers by default.

LADIES OF THE LAMP.

(With apologies to F.F.P., Khandallah, and the "Evening Post").
Many songs are written of the Army and the Navy,

Recently the Air Force, too, has lauded been in song.

Let us pay a tribute to the Nurses, who so bravely

Volunteer to leave this sunny land where they belong.

We honour them in song to-day,
Daughters of Britain clad in grey,
A noble life indeed is theirs
Who tend our loved ones' darkest

hours;
Like Florence Nightingale of old,
May they in danger grow more bold.
Full many a wounded, tortured brow
Has blessed their healing hands ere now.

We honour those who pain outstamp—
Those gallant Ladies of the Lamp.

SPIRIT OF OLD SOLDIERS

Enlistments At 15

MINISTER OF DEFENCE GIVES INCIDENTS

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, gave some incidents of the lighter side of Ministerial life to those who attended the annual reunion of the South African Veterans' Association in Wellington recently. Mr. Jones began by telling of a letter he received recently in which the writer described him as one of the ablest Ministers New Zealand had. Mr. Jones said he was flattered by this, but, while reading it, he looked at the right-hand corner of the letter to see the address of the writer. It was one of the mental institutions. How a man of such perception could be an inmate of a mental institution he could not understand, said Mr. Jones.

Referring to the endeavours of ex-soldiers to get themselves accepted for service in the present war, Mr. Jones recalled that in the South African war it was necessary for a recruit to be able to ride a horse. Some keen men did not find it much trouble to get a friend who could ride to take the test in their name. Men with such initiative did not require so much training, said Mr. Jones, referring to the statement of Mr. J. Cowdrey, in proposing the toast of the Fighting Services, that the first contingent of South African veterans left New Zealand only a month and a day after war was declared.

Mr. Jones then referred to some of the attempts made by ex-soldiers to get into the special force for overseas. At one reunion in a provincial town he had been introduced to a returned soldier who remarked to him "You turned me down." Later in the night the chairman of the gathering introduced the oldest ex-serviceman present, aged 74; it was the same man.

Before the war was over he would probably find himself very unpopular if he did not allow some of the elderly or, should he say middle-aged men, to go overseas, continued Mr. Jones. One returned soldier who had been refused because of his age had said to him, "You can ——— lose the war, then."

Again on the steamer express one night, he met an ex-serviceman with some ribbons on, who had been accepted again. Asked how old he was when he enlisted in the last war, this soldier said "fifteen." It was surprising, said Mr. Jones, to find how many ex-soldiers were now discovering that they were only 15 when they went to the Great War. Unfortunately for them there were files kept, and there were men at the Defence Department who sometimes looked up these files . . .

Mr. Perry, M.L.C.: Fancy keeping such "marks" in the department.

Voices: Hear, hear.
Mr. Jones: Well, some of these old soldiers are wangling their way again anyhow.

He added that he greatly admired the spirit of men who, having served before, were anxious to again play their part in the great struggle in which the Empire was now involved.

Speaking of the Navy Mr. Jones said that the Achilles men were one up on the Leander after the Graf Spee engagement and the crew of the latter was anxious to make up this leeway. "If any enemy ship comes within range of the Leander heaven help it," he added.

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