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Camp News

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. I. No. 28

Friday, November 8, 1940.

Salute Our Airmen!

The air attack continues. We reply by "clawing them down." Better still, we retaliate by invading Germany with bombs.

While this goes on, a heady dope incessantly drugs the German people.

They swallow fantastic "claims." Not only do they count up phantom losses on our side; they are also invited to absorb thrillers about the devastation inflicted upon us.

Does it occur to them to ask why, if we are so hard pressed, they continually receive attacks from our brave and brilliant airmen Very likely they wonder. But they keep doubts to themselves. The Gestapo men watch them.

Again we salute our airmen in pride and gratitude.

The youth of the British Commonwealth fights in this great Service released from the dead hand of tradition and convention and old military precedent. Free men, they defend us from slavery in perfect independence of spirit; using their brains, as well as their bodies. We can find no praise sufficient for them. We can resolve to be worthy of their fortitude, to imitate their discipline, to be prepared for inevitable sacrifices.

Wisecracks as Ship Sinks

One of about thirty officers and men aboard the torpedoed troopship Mahomed Ali El-Kebir, after all the boats and rafts had got away, a young petty officer dived into the sea shouting: "Come on mates. There'll always be an England—let's swim to it."

They did not have to swim far before British warships picked them up.

This was revealed in London recently. The torpedoing was announced on a Sunday night, when it was stated that 740 of the 860 men on board had been landed.

When the ship was hit all the soldiers on board, steady as though they were on the parade ground, calmly awaited the order to take to the boats.

It was dark when the Mahomed Ali El-Kebir, of 7,527 tons, was torpedoed, and many of the men were just turning in for the night.

Like Peace Drill.

In a few minutes all the troops had fallen in under their officers on the canting deck of the sinking ship, awaiting the order to take to the boats.

The orders came to detachment after detachment and they manned the boats as if they were carrying out a peace-time drill.

Naval ratings on board, "wise-cracking" as they worked, aided the crew of the ship in manning the boat falls and acting as boat-keepers as the boats were lowered.

Their training and experience were invaluable, for a heavy swell made the lowering of the boats and their handling difficult and dangerous. As it was, one boat capsized.

They also launched the life-saving rafts.

Ship's officers have stated that the loss of life would certainly have been much higher had it not been for the naval ratings.

The last boat was floated off the deck of the sinking ship, leaving the thirty officers and men whose boats had been wrecked by the explosion of the torpedo.

THIS ENGLAND

The inevitable gentleman with apparently quite a lot of time and money on his hands is publicly appealing for a little shootin' fun.

Says he:—

"Gentlemen (beginner) anxious to join small Private Shoot in Scotland, where instruction can be given."

The age or circumstances of this sporting amateur is not known, but we think somebody ought to draw his attention to a little excellent shooting which is to be had, not in Scotland but round the coasts—especially in the South. Not private, but public. Instruction quite free (in fact, they pay you two bob a day for it), and lack of experience is no obstacle. The birds are strong and high, and the War Office has all the details.



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Germans who break into houses during an air-raid alarm are now liable to capital punishment. This, of course, does not apply to Germans who break into other people's countries.

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"I've been to Australia, I've been to Africa, and I've been to India," says a traveller. In fact he's full of beans.