

2 per fare
OAF

DUFFEY'S GEN



R·N·Z·A·F. — NORFOLK ISLAND

NUMBER I.

14th November 1944.

INTRODUCING DUFFEY'S GEN.

With the first issue of Duffy's Gen it might not be out of place to say a few words concerning the paper and the reason for its existence.

It has been felt for some time that Norfolk Island needs some method of recording Station activities and developing a community of interest among the members of this small and isolated establishment. Accordingly, with the approval of the Commanding Officer, Duffy's Gen has been launched, and those responsible for its publication hope that it will be welcomed by those for whom it is intended. It should also be of interest to the people back home, and will provide a souvenir of one's stay on the Island.

Duffy's Gen is intended to be informal and entertaining and suggestions for its improvement will be welcomed. While no high literary standard is aimed at, we shall be pleased to receive original contributions from any member of the Station, whether of a serious or humorous nature. Material may be handed to the Education Officer.

It is not intended that any profits should result from the publication of this paper, but if there is any surplus it will be returned in the form of competition prizes etc..

The paper is yours and its success or otherwise will depend on the support it receives from all ranks on the Station.

UNCLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

SEE NEW ZEALAND on a glorious 28-day tour of this pearl of the South. Just mail this coupon with a good story to the Adjutant.

Eat at the Metroppo All-Night Cafe. All food burnt on a blast furnace.
- T. Lidgados Proprietor.

Have you inspected Tony's Botanical Gardens? Daffodils and lettuces now in full bloom.

Prepare for your post-war years. "Bookmaking for Beginners" - study course now available at the Library. See the Education Officer.

FOR SALE: Velly choice silver beet. See Fu Manchu - the Chinese Gardener.

Pocket knives, mackintoshes, razors and fountain pens, going cheap at McRae's Bargain Counter, next to the G.P.O..

Consult Wilbur for your beauty care. Traveller in rare perfumes, lipstick, eyebrow pencils and face cream.

Patronise Strude the Quality Butcher. This year's special - prime beef.

WET Canteen ?!!!?

HOBBIERS CLUB

The Station Hobbies Club, or Organised Foreigners' Department, has been in existence since the first general meeting held on 5th September, which was well attended. Since that time a building formerly used as a mess has been converted into an excellent workshop and a considerable amount of equipment has been conjured up from here and there for the use of members, while grants from Air Dept. and the Service Institute, combined with members' subs., have enabled some good tools to be purchased.

The Club owes its existence to three main needs. Firstly the need for a workshop and tools to make the foreigners which one's women - folk have come to expect from a member of the Service, and which used to be made surreptitiously in working hours, or did they? Secondly something to take the place of the home workshop we all had on "civvie street", and thirdly a place to pass the time on this "Madeira of the South Seas".

As Christmas approaches one hears the almost continuous sound of "graunching" from the direction of the Club, but we fear that other attractions have gained a temporary attachment of some members, as most of the activity seems confined to a minority. Perhaps if brewing and distilling were classed as hobbies or if we had some interested WAAF members there would be a more representative showing!

Although the supplying of material is not the responsibility of the Club, we have been fortunate in obtaining two dural propellor blades as well as various kinds of local timber, and good use has been made of these.

Owing to the size of the workshop it was thought advisable to limit the membership to fifty, and this number was soon reached. As further names are received they are put on a waiting list, but it is usually possible to gain admittance to the Club within a month.

With the equipment now available a great variety of articles can be made, and a lot of ingenuity has been shown in turning the material on hand to good use, things already made including inlaid boxes, beer mugs, paper and butter knives, jewellery and trinkets, pokerwork etc.

NATURALIST CLUB

The activities of the Naturalist Club so far have been fairly limited. We have a small membership and are concentrating on making as representative a collection as possible of Norfolk fauna in the time available. It is proposed to send the specimens collected to museums in N.S. and we have received intimation of their willingness to help us in every way. Apart from the birds and possibly the land snails, little is known of the animal life here - even the identity of the local bat is not certain. Through the cooperation of the Marine Section, most of us have managed a trip to Phillip Island. The time was most profitably spent studying the bird life in particular. The Island people have willingly given us information and the observations of the children have proved valuable, particularly in locating the nesting places of birds. The reef at Kingston should yield much of interest, and a bit of diving in the Crystal Pool and the Cord would be time well spent. We are also hoping to do some dredging on the sea floor and tow-netting on the surface to collect samples of marine life.

The Club would appreciate any specimen of bird, bug, wog or other animal life that may be found, and also any information or peculiarity that anybody might happen to come across.

WEEK'S QUOTATION: "When women kiss, it always reminds me of prize-fighters shaking hands"-H.L. Mencken.

The shield which was presented to the winning team at the recent Tabloid Sports Meeting was made by several of the Club members.

There are still quite a few hobbies normally covered by a club of this nature, including bee-keeping, gardening, boat building and nature study, and no doubt these will be forthcoming when those interested realise the benefits to be derived from Club membership.

Finally the Club appears to be fulfilling its function satisfactorily, and although it may not have completely ousted the making of "puff-puff" boats in one Section, it has certainly eased the load on workshop benches elsewhere.

TABLOID SPORTS

A most successful Tabloid Sports Meeting was held at Rossiter Park last Wednesday afternoon. Among the guests was the Administrator, Sir Charles Rosenthal. The efficient manner in which events were run off reflected great credit on all concerned with the organisation of the meeting. A large number of personnel took part in the events, which included flat races and novelty events such as bowling the cricket ball and a nail-driving contest.

The winning team was Camp B led by Sgt. Allan Charman, the other members being Robinson, Chubb, Thomson, Griffiths and Sowerby (Larine Section), Guardsmen Oswald and Twist, and Lee and Coldstream (D/F Section).

Points were as follows: Camp B 98½, 1st.; Camp A 92, 2nd.; Signals B 85½, 3rd.. The Commanding Officer presented the Captain of the winning team with a shield donated by the Hobbies Club, which will be competed for at similar meetings to be held in the future.

Among other incidents witnessed by our roving reporter were: A stirring contest between the A.O. and Adjutant at the finish of the 100 yards dash --- a great performance by Doug. Dewar in the sack race --- first-class shot putting by Oswald for Camp B --- Mt. Bates' lightning display in the sprint --- "Snow" Cant's senna-coloured locks after the long jump --- A/S/O Beere's murderous blows with the hammer in the ladies' Nail Driving Event.

If the enjoyment experienced by those who took part is any criterion, further meetings should be assured of even greater success.

--oCo--

ON THE RIFLE RANGE

There have been some very keen marksmen down on the range of late; in fact it looks as if the crack shots, F/O Palmer, LAC's Davidson, Cook and others, are going to have plenty of competition. Very good scores have been recorded recently by Henderson and Oswald (123 each). With the Challenge Shield shoot coming off soon these men should be a great help to their respective teams. There should be some good shooting witnessed in the Shield match, with "Sharky" Wigmore and the Firecrew team, the Palmer - Davidson combination in the Works line-up, and several "dark horses" who have peppered the bull in recent shoots.

Boyle (skip). After a well-contested match, unfortunately upset by rain at one stage, the local team won by 4 points.

TENNIS NOTES

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Whisker, tennis is booming on Norfolk. Two grass courts and one asphalt court have been made available for play, and with good tennis weather ahead players of the game will be well catered for. The courts are open to all, the only stipulation being that if you play you are expected to help with the upkeep of the grounds. Mowing, rolling and marking the courts is hard work when left to a few, so pitch in and help. At present the asphalt court is unplayable, but it will soon be in order. The standard of play is good and the Airmen shortly hope to issue a challenge to the Officers and Sergeants. The boys are very confident, especially now that certain players from the Net. have put in an appearance.

Noticed playing a good game over the weekend was Gray "the Grader King". Fred Duncan is still carrying a fair amount of condition but will be a handy man. "Terror" Douglas is a wily exponent of the game, and Hooper is a steady player.

We have one or two ladies among our members but could do with more. (Who couldn't? - Ed.). We remind members that we have only six racquets at present and we ask them to consider the conditions before playing. We hope to obtain more racquets through the Patriotic Fund Board.

Play is not permitted on Friday afternoons when schoolchildren have the use of the courts.

--oCo--

GOLF

In an inter-teams match, Norfolk Island V. Air Force, played during last month, Air Force defeated Norfolk by 4 matches to 2.

Following are detailed results: Dewey & McCoy (N) beat Palmer & Akel (AF) 5/4; Chapman & Laing lost to Firth & Bayly 3/2; Green & Edwards beat Irwin & McRae 5/4; Welsh & Knapton lost to Coxon & Jameson 1up; Murphy & Hingston lost to Fergus & Jones 6/5.

--oCo--

BOWLING

Quite a sprinkling of airmen are to be found on the local bowling green on Saturday afternoons. Frank Greer is one who has been consistently "kissing" Kitty. During the weekend an Air Force team consisting of Bremner, Greer and McIntosh and skipped by Ray Madsen played an Island team - Bundle, Watt, Keith &

CRICKET COMPETITION INTO SECOND ROUND.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>8 pt. win</u>	<u>5 pt. win</u>	<u>Draw</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Points</u>
MT. BATES	5	-	4	1	-	22
WORKS	5	1	1	-	3	13
D/F.- MET.	5	-	2	1	2	12
HEADQUARTERS	5	1	-	-	4	8

LAST SATURDAY'S GAMES

MT. BATES 80, beat WORKS 17 and 101 for six wickets.

The principal scorers in Mt. Bates' innings were Harding (19), Leader (15), and Berriman (14). Dewar bowled unchanged for Works and finished with the excellent figures of seven wickets for 32, six clean-bowled and the other caught and bowled.

Works opened disastrously, losing four wickets for seven runs and being all out for 17. Brown took six wickets for five runs and Leader four for 12. Both were at the top of their form and had the batsmen completely tied up.

Works following on staged a complete reversal of form, and had made 101 for six at stumps. Robb (26) and Dewar (40) added 57 runs for the fourth wicket in quick time.

Leader's captaincy of the Mt. Bates side was in no small measure responsible for the Works' defeat, both when his side was batting, and in the field, particularly during the Works' first innings.

Mt. Bates are grateful to F/L. Ted Henderson and F/O. Vautier for their active participation in this and previous games in bringing the Hill team up to strength.

D/F - MET. 88, beat HEADQUARTERS 56.

D/F - Met. batted first, the opening pair, Ollivier (16) and Larsen (19), giving the team a good start. Ollivier looked set for a score when he pulled a ball hard round to square leg and was brilliantly caught by Bolland, who dived low for the catch. Mitchell and Lee each made 13 runs by the long-handle method, and the innings closed for 88. The best bowlers were Burrows (four for 16) and Bolland (four for 27).

The only H.Q. batsman to make double figures was Neal, who opened the innings and batted stolidly for about half-an-hour to compile 19 runs before being stumped by Ballantyne off Christian's bowling. Thompson hit two boundaries before being caught behind the wickets. Lynch hit the only six of the match and then was out to a good catch in the outfield by Coldstream, the innings closing for 56.

Litt was difficult to play and took three wickets for 15 off eight overs. Christian bowled deceptively and took four for 37, and Larsen coming on at the finish took two wickets for no runs.

A MATCH between Air Force and Islanders has been arranged for next Saturday. AFTER A CAREFUL STUDY OF FORM, DUFFY'S GEN HAS PICKED A TEAM WHICH SHOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO THE OFFICIAL SELECTION. The team is :- Leader, Brown, Thorne, Dewar, Robb, McNeish, Harding, Ollivier, Larsen, Berriman and Foley.

PREVIOUS SATURDAY'S GAMES

MT. BATES 122, DREW WITH D/F.- MET. 108 FOR 8; H.Q. 54, LOST TO WORKS 60.

Roy Larsen, Captain of D/F.-Met., is a useful all-rounder. He used his bowlers to advantage and placed his field excellently.

Brown gave a very bright and sound display in scoring 64. His bowling was always dangerous.

John Ollivier starred for D/F.-Met. and batted solidly for his score of 46 not out. Litt, Christian and Leader bowled well for their teams.

McNeish, the Works wicketkeeper, did a great job of work behind the stumps, not letting a ball past him.

F/O Bolland batted very steadily for Headquarters' top score of 21.

Thorne (6 for 15) and Dewar (3 for 25) were the most successful bowlers for Works. For Headquarters, Des Lynch trundled very well. Thompson and Olsson were useful change bowlers.

ODDITIES & BREVITIES

It was chow-time at the Hospital. A hen and her chickens strayed past. A piece of toast was flipped into the centre of the brood and hit a chicken. The chicken did a back-loop, picked itself up and wandered around in a semi-coma. Examination by the Hospital Ornithologist disclosed a broken neck. Some chicken! Some neck! SOME TOAST!!!!

::::::::::

We wouldn't mind pinning down a few of these pin-up girls on display around and about. We suggest pin-on girls would be a more appropriate title - that's all most of them wear.

::::::::::

Methinks there will be a lot of young-looking mothers travelling with single men on 28-day warrants.

::::::::::

No, Junior, the picture "100 Men and a Girl" was not produced on Norfolk.

::::::::::

We hear tell - and pass no comment - of the skirl of pipes assisting the siren in the wee sma' hours.

::::::::::

This surprise mail business is all very nice, but gone, seemingly, are the days when a man could clean up his correspondence on Sunday and say: "Ah, no more to write now till after the mail comes in next ---day".

::::::::::

The Met. have their views,
And they're quite on the level,
But I think this Island
Is dry as the devil!

ooooooo
ooooooo

WANTED! WANTED!
NORFOLK JOE on charges of

1. Canslaughter at the recent Ration Store Hold-up.
2. Converting Headquarters and Workshops bicycles to his own use.
3. Stealing a month's supply of beer from the Wet Canteen.

Any person knowing his whereabouts, or having information which may lead to his capture, contact Chief Inspector Sherlock McRae.

HILLBILLIES' CORNER.

According to Mrs. Jones' little boy Greig, shortages of apparel in N.Z. have become more acute than ever - especially the more intimate garments of the fair sex. Greig's taste in the choosing of these delicacies is exquisite.

"Splawfoot" Joe is a busy man these days dividing his time unequally between gardening and making lemonade. He gets full marks for an excellent show in the garden.

Bates' boys shortly expect to see the launching of the gigantic

We have the tip - straight from the equine kisser - of a race meeting to be held on the Island in the not-so-far-distant future.

ooooooo
ooooooo

Our Transport Section is right up to date - even fires are now mobile.

::::::::::

Fishermen's Bend.

Everyone for what he likes;
Some like to be
Heads down, tails up,
Helplessly.

-- With Apologies.

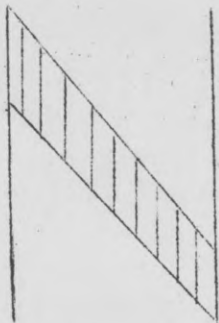
WE HEARD ABOUT IT - - -

The Thin Man from the Strip was shaving. "Whatcha doin', Joe?" queried the onlooker. "Just beatin' about the bush", replied Josph.

F/O Sam Meads is at present sweating it out on Green Island. No doubt jacking up the odd coconut.

"Barley" Evans' new daughter is a hot number. Oh well, he's in the Fire Section.

ocean-going transport, built in record time in the shipyards of "Spannerface" Harding & "Niggler" Timings. The long awaited christening will be something special.



NORFOLK

The stately pines bend in the balmy breeze,
And peace and beauty cover all the land,
And contented erks lie dozing neath the trees,
Or basking on the beach of coral sand,
On Norfolk.

Snug farms and orchards lie in the gentle hills,
Where airmen meet to while away the night,
And foaming bowls of "Soop" bring many ills,
And fierce remorse to greet the morning light,
On Norfolk.

But the scene may change with all the speed of sound,
And screaming wind blow sweet content away,
And rain may beat our tents down to the ground,
And naught but sodden wreckage mark the fray,
On Norfolk.

The Coldstream Guards, we hear, are models of precision;
The glory of our Maori lads will never fade,
But for the best, there's no doubt your decision,
Would be awarded to our daily Wing Parade,
On Norfolk.

The S.W.O., who's full of eagerness and zest,
Snaps out his orders loud, and full of vim;
But though we try, and do our level best,
I'm afraid they take a long time to sink in,
On Norfolk.

In spite of all our comforts and content,
Good food, snug huts, and even toilet paper,
There is a phrase that rings from tent to tent;
The magic words we hear are "Home's the caper",
On Norfolk.

- Harold P. Darby.

--oOo--

WE HEARD ABOUT IT - -

There was the airman who fitted
a rubber band over a hen's beak to
prevent it from squawking. We hope
that's all he did - we Hope.

Congratulations to Cpl. Tom Hooper.
Also to Cpl. Frank Greer,
And best wishes to Mr. and Mrs.
"Darky" Cooper; we wish it were us...

.....

THIS WEEK'S PICTURES

Rawson Hall Tuesday & Wednesday

1930 hours

"MOON OVER BURMA"

With glamorous, amorous Lamour.

Titles of other shows not available.

ARMISTICE DAY

Ceremony at Kingston

A brief but impressive ceremony
was held at Kingston on Saturday to
commemorate the men of Norfolk Is.
who gave their lives in the Great
War.

Wreaths were placed on the Memor-
ial by the Administrator, Sir
Charles Rosenthal, the Commanding
Officer, R.N.Z.A.F. Station, S/L.
G.M. Firth, the President of the
Advisory Council and representatives
of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Red
Cross, the School and other organis-
ations.

Following the Roll Call and
observance of two minutes' silence,
a short divine service was held,
opening with the hymn "Lord, While
Afar Our Brothers Fight".

NORFOLK ISLAND

HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT TO DUFFY'S GEN

NORFOLK ISLAND was discovered by Captain Cook in 1774, and reported to be fertile and uninhabited. Accounts were sent to England of its tall, straight trees and of the New Zealand flax which grew abundantly. These attracted the attention of the authorities engaged in preparations for the establishment of a convict settlement in New South Wales; so that when Captain Phillip sailed in 1787 with the first fleet he was instructed, as soon as circumstances would permit of it, to send a small establishment to the Island to secure it to the Crown. Phillip lost no time in complying with his instructions, and on the 14th February, 1788, despatched the armed tender "Supply" with a party of 23, including 9 male and 6 female convicts, under the command of Lieutenant P.G. King. It was this gentleman who is reputed to have been the first to describe Norfolk as "The Madeira of the Pacific."

The population of the Island, chiefly supplied by the stream of convict ships then employed in removing from British gaols those condemned under the transportation laws of the day, soon mounted to about a 1,000, at which figure it remained for the next fifteen years.

Considerable areas of land were cleared and planted, partly on behalf of the public and partly on behalf of the convicts themselves, whom it appears to have been desired to transform into permanent settlers. Many of these had their homes scattered widely over the Island, and by diligent labour, aided by a most fruitful soil, in a very short time rendered themselves independent of supplies from the public store.

The troubles apparently inseparable from the convict stations of those days - disaffection among the soldier guards and attempted revolts on the part of the convicts - gave much anxiety to the various commanding officers. But it was chiefly the need for all available soldiers and convicts to aid in establishing new stations in Tasmania that led to orders being given in 1803 for the abandoning of the Norfolk settlement. It was not, however, till 1813 that the process of removal was complete and the last settlers left Norfolk.

From 1813 to 1826 the Island remained unoccupied. In the latter year however, it was felt in New South Wales that it would be convenient to resume occupation of Norfolk and devote it to use as a prison for convicts guilty of additional crimes while serving sentences in New South Wales. Accordingly, considerable numbers of these unfortunates, with suitable detachments of soldier guards, were relegated thither. The lands were again made to yield of their abundance, huge gaols and barracks were added, bridges and a structure, half breakwater, half wharf, were built, and many other public works completed.

But within a few years of this second settlement, "hell in full blast was operating on what had been for uncourted ages a solitary paradise." This was the Norfolk Island immortalized by Marcus Clark in his book, "For the Term of His Natural Life." "Under the lash and in the imminent shadow of the gallows they themselves raised, gaunt, fierce, human beasts quarried the stone and built the walls that shut them out from light and air and hope." Like animals they lived, like animals they died; and yet the old cemetery is not their only monument. Of the gaols only the surrounding walls now remain; but there is Bloody Bridge, scene of one of their many insurrections; Quality Row, the old quarters of the garrison officers; and Government House and the Administrative buildings, still used as such to-day. The settlement at King's Town (or Kingston, as it is now called) is one of unique historical interest.

In 1844 the control of the Island passed from New South Wales to Tasmania. It continued to be used as a convict station, but soon after the exposures and agitations of prison reformers led in the first place to substantial ameliorations and subsequently to suggestions that the Island should again be abandoned.

Various reasons, social and economic, were urged for the evacuation, but the adoption of this policy was at least hastened by the fact that there was in waiting a ready-made community anxious and prepared to enter into occupation. Accordingly preparations for removal were expedited and, in May, 1855, the last shipload of convicts, guards and settlers left for Tasmania.

The next occupation, which has continued uninterruptedly to the present day, was by the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island, an isolated spot lying far to the east of Norfolk.

CONTINUED.

Their history dates from 1788, and forms a continuation of the narrative of the mutiny of the Bounty.

Subsequent to the mutiny and after many vicissitudes Fletcher Christian, who had organized it, with eight of his confreres, thirteen Tahitian women, and six men (four of the same race, and two Tubuaians), made his way in H.M.S. "Bounty" to Pitcairn, an island lying 1,200 miles to the south-east of Tahiti, arriving there in January, 1790. The soil and the sea provided ample food, and there they remained unknown to the world for almost twenty years. After 1808 casual visits of ships-of-war and whalers supplied them with occasional stores and took word of their progress to the people of England, who showed remarkable interest in these folk.

Three Englishmen at various times threw in their lot with the Pitcairners, and the population gradually increased. However, by the year 1852 the defects of the island as a place for a community of any size were becoming manifest. Sickness was rife, droughts and gales ruined their crops and destroyed their coconuts, the water supply became precarious, and altogether their situation was deplorable.

Fortunately for them Norfolk Island, a place very much larger than Pitcairn and fitted to sustain a much bigger population, was about to be vacated. On the 3rd May, 1856, the whole population of Pitcairn was embarked on the "Horayshire," a ship provided by the British Government, and on the 8th of June following there landed at their new home 40 men, 47 women, 54 boys and 53 girls, a total of 194.

Notwithstanding the superior facilities and opportunities of their new abode, some were unable to overcome their regrets for the land of their birth, and in 1858 and 1853 46 persons returned to Pitcairn.

The new chapter thus opened required constitutional changes, and on the 24th June, 1856, Norfolk Island was withdrawn from the Colony of Van Diemen's Land and created a separate settlement with the Governor of New South Wales as its Governor also.

In 1896 New Zealand put forward a claim to the control of the island, but it was not supported by the Colonial Office, and in 1897 an Imperial Order-in-Council referring to Norfolk Island declared that the existing form of Government should be continued "in prospect of the future annexation of Norfolk Island to the Colony of New South Wales or to any Federal body of which that Colony might thereafter form part."

In 1913 arrangements were completed for the acceptance of Norfolk as a Territory by the Commonwealth of Australia, and in 1914 this was consummated, control being vested in the Governor-General. The Island is now administered by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, acting through an appointed Administrator. There is also an Advisory Council, elected by the people.

No history of Norfolk, however cursory, would be complete without mention of its long association with the Melanesian Mission. In 1867 their headquarters were established on the island and the Mission Chapel of Saint Barnabas was built. The latter is quite unique. The marble work and decorations in shell-mosaics done by native students from the islands are really beautiful. Stained glass windows by Burne-Jones are among many other gifts and bequests made by people in England to this romantic outpost. For half a century the headquarters of the Bishop of Melanesia remained on Norfolk, after which they were moved to the Solomon Islands.

GEOGRAPHICAL & GEOLOGICAL NOTE:

Norfolk Island lies in latitude 29.06 and longitude 167.54E., and is about 800 miles due east of Ballina in New South Wales, which is the nearest point of the Australian continent. It is distant about 930 miles from Sydney, 630 from Auckland, 930 from Suva, and 450 from Noumea.

Its formation is volcanic, and probably has some remote geological connection with New Zealand. The flora is most closely associated with that of the Dominion, and the avifauna indicates the same connection rather than one with Australia; as those birds which belong to Australian genera are apparently immigrants, while those which occur on the Island in common with New Zealand would be incapable of such distant migration.

In addition to the main island, there are two smaller ones, which are uninhabited; Nepean, a low islet of coral-sandstone, lying about half a mile south, and Phillip Island, a volcanic mass 900 feet high, which is between three and four miles south.

Acknowledgement: Extract from a publication of the Norfolk Is. Tourist Bureau. The paper for this supplement is donated by the Station Library.

NORFOLK STORY

HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT TO DUFFY'S GEN

It was on the second and more leisurely voyage of Captain James Cook, extending from 1772 to 1775 and made in the "Adventure" and "Resolution", that he discovered Norfolk Island. Cook himself states that the object of this second expedition was "to complete the discovery of the Southern Hemisphere". In three successive years during the second voyage, Cook sailed to the far south, making three unsuccessful attempts to penetrate the frozen sea, and finally demonstrating that the dream of centuries had no foundation, and that there was no "Terra Australis Incognita" outside the limits of the circumpolar ice. In 1774 he employed his time in cruising among the Pacific Islands, beginning at Easter Island, with its gigantic stone figures, mysterious relics of a forgotten civilization. Thence, after a stay at his beloved Tahiti, he worked westward among the islands to New Caledonia, on his way to make his third and final attempt on the Antarctic Circle. On the 10th October, 1774, as the "Resolution" was slowly ploughing her way from New Caledonia towards New Zealand, land was discovered bearing S.W. It was found to be an island of good height, five leagues in circumference. The island was bounded by rocky cliffs on nearly every side, with 18 to 20 fathoms of water close to the shore. Cook says "I named it Norfolk Isle, in honour of the noble family of Howard."

The boats were launched, and the weather being extremely favourable, the Captain landed without difficulty behind some large rocks on the north east side, near what was afterwards known as the Cascades. Along the shore was a belt of thick scrub, and beyond this a dense forest of a sort of spruce pine, the trees as thick as two men could fathom, and exceedingly straight and tall. The soil was rich and deep, and the Captain found many trees and plants common to New Zealand, particularly the flax plant, growing most luxuriantly by the sea, and much finer than he had seen it in New Zealand. The woods abounded with pigeons, parrots, parrakeets, hawks, and many New Zealand birds. The island was uninhabited. The party from the "Resolution" may have been the first human beings to tread its tangled forests, though it is possible that at isolated periods previously Maori canoes had been driven by heavy south-east storms from the coast of New Zealand, and that shipwrecked Maoris had maintained an existence on the island for years, for in the early days of the settlement two canoes were found on the beaches, and it is said that stone adzes resembling those in use in New Zealand were burned up when the land was being broken up for cultivation. Cook gave but a few hours to the examination of the island, and on the following day sailed away for New Zealand. On the publication of his book, his description, brief as it was, of the capabilities of Norfolk Island, of its rich soil, its dense pine forests, and profuse growth of New Zealand flax, attracted attention to it as a desirable possession. Consequently, when the Government in the year 1787 resolved on establishing a penal settlement at Botany Bay, it was determined to occupy this promising island as a dependency of the principal colony. In the Royal Instructions to Governor Phillip the following passage occurs:—"Norfolk Island being represented as a spot which may hereafter become useful, you are as soon as circumstances admit of it, to send a small establishment thither to secure the same to us, and prevent it being occupied by the subjects of any other European power." The instructions also contain directions to the Governor as to the cultivation of the flax plant, and its use in manufacturing clothing for the convicts and for maritime purposes.

Little more than a week after Governor Phillip had landed on the site of Sydney (6th February, 1788), Philip Gidley King, then a young lieutenant on board H.M.S. "Sirius", received his commission as Superintendent and Commandant of the settlement of Norfolk Island, with orders to take a small party of people and some live-stock to this distant isle, which was intended to serve as a place of seclusion for troublesome characters, and as a possible succour for the main settlement in case of famine. Comparatively few are aware that, with the single exception of Sydney, Norfolk is the oldest English colony in the South Seas. King's party consisted of an officer and surgeon from H.M.S. "Sirius", four seamen and two marines from the same vessel, with nine male and six female convicts. Some time before King's departure, and when the proposal to take women convicts was first mooted, it is recorded that he went aboard the "Lady Penrhyn", the female convict-ship, to consult Lieutenant Bowes, the surgeon, "respecting the character of five or six women whom he meant to take with him."

The women were assured that they would not be hard-worked and that they would be conveyed home at the expiration of their term of transportation, if not before.

They sailed from Port Jackson in the armed tender "Supply", and were 14 days aboard before, on the 29th February, they came in sight of their destination. For days they cruised around the island, searching in vain for a harbour or even a landing place, sometimes in the ship, sometimes exploring the shores in a boat, but everywhere baffled by the inaccessible cliffs, or the thundering surf of the ocean swell on the rocky beaches. At last after five days' search, when they had almost despaired of success, they found a beach in a bay on the south side of the island, protected by a long reef extending parallel with the shore and about 150 yards distant from it. At the end of the reef was an opening, barely wide enough to allow two boats to pass, which gave access to the smooth waters inside. Here King got his little party landed with their stores, and soon had a small patch of ground cleared and tents pitched. Having settled his colony King now proceeded to explore his new domain. He describes the island as six miles long by 4 miles broad and estimated to contain 11,000 acres. The ground was everywhere covered with an almost impenetrable forest. The principal tree was the pine, which grew everywhere. From the highest point of the island, over a thousand feet above sea level, which he named Mt. Pitt, he had a view of a continuous forest without a break, for in its natural state there was not a square yard of clear ground on the whole island. The soil was deep and rich, but not a blade of grass grew anywhere. Pigeons and parrots were in great numbers; the pigeons so tame that they could be knocked over with a stick. These explorations were made with great difficulty and the explorers often returned with their clothing torn to shreds. To conquer the virgin forest King had only twelve men, and one of these was an old man of 72, another a boy of 15. Small as the company was, it was a difficult one to manage. Before a month passed the boy was caught stealing rum and punished with 100 lashes, which King in his diary remarks he hoped would have a good effect. Later on we hear of a woman being punished in a similar way. One of the women became the mother of King's two sons. The entry in the diary for Thursday, January 8th, 1789, reads :- "A male child born." Ten days later, on the Sunday, he says :- "At 10 a.m. performed divine service and baptised the new-born infant by the name of Norfolk, he being the first born on the island." There is no hint of his paternity or mention of the mother - only the pencilled name of "Norfolk" opposite the entry. At a later date many officers lived openly with female companions, listed quaintly in official records as "concubines". To add to the Commandant's troubles in maintaining discipline, all his people were ill with scurvy from their salt diet, and his first attention was given to obtaining fresh provisions. At first they got turtle, but these were soon scared away. The fish supply was precarious, as fishing was only possible in calm weather. Their chief resource was the pigeons, and the birds abounding on Mt. Pitt gave them many a good meal. A few banana trees were found growing not far from the settlement, but for vegetables they were chiefly dependent on nikau palms, the crown of which furnished a good vegetable, not unlike a cabbage.

Under these circumstances the progress of the settlement was very slow, but gradually, as the little colony was reinforced by fresh drafts from Sydney, ground was cleared and brought under cultivation, huts and store-houses were erected, and a weatherboard cottage, 24 feet by 12 feet, was built for a Government House. In January, 1790, two years after King's first landing, there were on the island 79 male and 33 female convicts, and 32 free settlers. King's record of these days is dreary reading, being a chronicle of petty crimes and rough punishments, of crops destroyed by blight or grub, of disorders, conspiracies, and mutinies among the prisoners, and of discontent among the settlers, whether free or emancipated. He ruled this turbulent community like a sailor, with a mixture of rough severity and good-natured lenity, dealing out barbaric punishments to offenders, and equally barbaric indulgences as a reward for improved behaviour.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: A large portion of this supplement was extracted from Tasmanian Official Records. The Editors are again grateful to Mrs. Molke of the Mission Road, for supplying further relevant information.
