

# There's A Lot Of Good Times Coming

Everyone these days feels more or less unsettled. That is understandable. With the current reorganisation of manpower nothing is really certain; many of us have lost mates who are being returned to industry and to their studies.

But this will pass. Many of us can expect to remain in the regiment under the cadre system, and once we settle down again under rather different conditions, we are going to find ready to hand for us an unlimited variety of entertainments, hobbies and pursuits.

So far, the activities of the Army Education Welfare Service in this unit have been confined, through necessity, to the provision of study courses for men whose education has been interrupted, or who wish to improve their knowledge in spheres likely to be of use to them on their return to civil life. Our army is a civilian army and a temporary army. Every man knows it is temporary, and realises that one day he will once more have to make his own way and earn his own living. Hence the urgency of giving men the opportunity to prepare themselves for their return.

Owing to the nature of our regiment under its present form, it has been a difficult and arduous job even to inform men of the facilities available to them. In spite of this difficulty, the work has now been accomplished, and a host of

survey forms from the men of the regiment is to hand. Already, enrolment forms have been issued to many for study courses which are now ready, and as others come from the press enrolment forms for them will be issued.

AEWS is like a great department store. It will stock as many helpful commodities as possible, and at all times will study its customers' needs. Every genuine demand will be satisfied as far as is humanly possible.

## Gunpost Hobbies

But there are other sides to AEWS. Already some units less scattered than we are at present have fostered hobbies and lucrative spare-time pursuits. Within our own brigade we have evidence of these activities.

For those who may be somewhat sceptical of what can be done on a gunpost in the way of hobbies and handicrafts there is the example of the 15th Heavy Regiment, which, since the introduction of the Army Education Welfare Service, has instituted an amazing variety of pursuits.

Men on gunposts have drawn up plans for pig and poultry runs. The offer of a donation of livestock and materials has been received to help them start. Many other gunners have decided to take up fretwork and carpentry, and, through a generous grant, are able to buy the necessary tools.

One of the N.C.O.'s, working from photographs he saw in a magazine, has drawn up plans for the construction of small wooden toys such as jeeps and ack-ack guns, and with the money raised from the sale of these popular playthings, they will be able to buy more materials and more tools. Here they have a hobby which will stand them in good stead in the winter months.

Others have taken up model aeroplane construction, building some very good scale models from balsa. Waacs also have figured in this pursuit with marked success.

## Waacs' Pastimes

Waacs have a variety of interests of their own. With the help of several commercial establishments in the city they have taken up dressmaking and hairdressing as a winter evening pastime. Instructors from the city visit them several nights a week with equipment for instruction. These two courses have proved the most popular yet.

Others are making toys and articles of papier mache, from instructions supplied by the occupational therapy hospital. All these facilities were acquired through their AEWS officer. Shortly we too should be able to push ahead with similar, although not necessarily identical, handicrafts.

In one respect we lead all Auckland units, and that is with our magazine "FLAK." It has aroused much comment, and already copies have been sent by the authorities to Wellington and also to other units as an example of what can be done by a regiment with a little initiative. Here is one way in which you have the opportunity to help now. Write for "FLAK," and try to keep it at as uniformly a high standard as possible.

## Entertainments

But AEWS has two sides. The first, Education, we have dealt with. The second, Welfare, is already functioning. Entertainment is constantly available to a degree not realised by the average gunner. For instance, how many of you have asked for gramophone record recitals? Do you know that the whole library of the National Broadcasting Service is available to you? You have 14,000 records to choose from. All you have to do is ask.

Forms have already been issued and others are available on request for securing one of these recitals. Use them. Ask your officer for one. AEWS will send out a man with gear and records to provide you with an evening's entertainment. You may ask for particular records, or a type

