

"Vrai et Fort"

22nd Battalion Association

AUCKLAND BRANCH

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22ND BATTALION NEWS

(Registered at Post Office H.Q. as Magazine)

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BRANCH REUNION & LADIES FUNCTION - SUNDAY, 28TH MARCH.

Your Committee decided in December to change the venue, the day of the week and the time of this year's annual Branch Social function. The reasons were partly to reduce the cost and partly in recognition of the fact that many people are now reluctant to go out on a Saturday night. So we are having our function on a Sunday, with an early start (at 4 p.m.) and an early finish (about 8 p.m.). And by avoiding a Saturday night, we have been able to reduce the price of admission (\$3 per head less than last year) without sacrificing the quality of the catering. The overall result is expected to be a worthwhile increase in the attendance. PLEASE NOTE: Any friends or relatives you wish to invite will be most welcome.

VENUE:-

Grey Lynn Returned Services Club
1 Francis Street, Grey Lynn.

TIMES:-

Assemble at:- 4 p.m.
Dinner at:- 5.30 p.m. (approx)
Close down:- 8 p.m.

(Francis Street runs between Old Mill Road (bordering the Auckland Zoo) and Richmond Road (at the Surrey Crescent end of it). The Grey Lynn R.S.C. is at the Richmond Road end of Francis Street).

The programme will closely follow the pattern of previous years, the function being almost entirely social in character with an excellent Smorgasbord meal. Drinks will be available throughout at Club prices and dinner wines will also be available.

Admission:- \$7.00 per head (How's that?)

REPLIES PLEASE:- We need your reply (by mail) and we need it promptly so that we know how many to cater for in good time. And PLEASE let us hear from you even if you can't make it. Subs. for 1982/83 are now due and this is the time of year to send them in. We've done our part - now it's up to you to reply. Use the reply slip in this issue and mail it in time to reach the Secretary by 22nd March.

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BRANCH FUNCTION & LADIES FUNCTION - 28TH MARCH

Full details of our annual Branch social 'do' are on the first page of this Circular. As we told you in the December issue, it will be on a Sunday and will start at 4 p.m. Your Committee were fully agreed that a Sunday is a more suitable day of the week than a Saturday for many people and Saturday night functions have been getting far too costly. Please let us have an enthusiastic response - you won't regret it. JIM ALLEN has assured us that we will be more than satisfied with the standard of catering and the comfort of the surroundings in the Grey Lynn R.S.C. Clubrooms in Francis Street, Grey Lynn. We will have the place to ourselves as well.

We hope to see some of our members from down or up country and, if you live anywhere within a 25 mile radius of Auckland P.O., there can be no excuse for not coming along, enjoying yourselves and giving your Committee the support they deserve but don't always get. This function is for you and we want to see YOU there - so do the others who will be there and haven't seen you for some time. And don't forget that guests (young or old; male or female) will be extremely welcome.

During the evening, we will elect the Committee for 1982/83 but this won't take long and won't interfere with the social side of the proceedings. Please turn to the inside page NOW and fill in and mail the reply slip pronto!

(See you on Sunday, 28th March)

THE WALKING WOUNDED

Have been having a look at the list of the Branch Committee elected a year ago and noticing that the numbers have dwindled a bit and that some of the survivors are not as hale and hearty as they used to be. GORDON COUCHMAN left Auckland to live in Tauranga, where he joined another member of the Committee, Vice-President DOUG. FROGGATT. Our Patron, ERL PLEASANTS, finally came to the end of the road seven months ago and is greatly and sadly missed. SCOTCH PATERSON now lives on Waiheke Island and is unable to attend Committee meetings held in the evening. The walking wounded of the past year include President GEORGE MATTHEWS, who was out of circulation for quite some weeks, and CECIL SMITH, who is steadily recovering after his serious illness of last year but still has another operation to go before he can start recuperating properly. Then we have those two earlier members of the heart-attack Club - MAL LINKLATER and MASSEY WOOD. The Secretary/Treasurer was beginning to feel a bit left out of things until he gave himself and his wife a minor fright a few weeks ago. The doctor couldn't find anything seriously wrong but suggested that taking things a little more quietly might be wise. Altogether, a fine bunch of old crocks but I guess that's what has to be expected as the years since 1939/45 mount up. We are still in business and the show will go on, with your support and encouragement.

BRANCH REUNION & LADIES FUNCTION - SUNDAY, 28TH MARCH.

THE BATTLE OF MARLBOROUGH STREET

In his later years, Napoleon Bonaparte looked back over his career as one of the greatest soldiers of them all and made a discovery that astounded him:- that force is impotent to establish anything and that, in the end, it is the mind that always conquers, not the sword. These words from an acknowledged expert in the use of force can well be pondered upon in the context of last year's Springbok tour of New Zealand and the events that took place in the quiet suburban streets around Auckland's Eden Park on Saturday, 12th September, 1981.

The tour itself and the bitter confrontations between militant protesters and the police, developing into pitched battles on the day of the 3rd test, divided New Zealanders as never before. Are we, the returned servicemen of World War 2, as deeply divided on the issues at stake as the population in general? I suggest that we are not, though there would have been considerable differences in the individual reactions of returned men to the events of last year. I am sure that the great majority of us were deeply concerned about the basic issue:- whether anyone has the right to use illegal force or the threat of it to intimidate others. It was this principle that was so hotly-debated during the latter part of 1981 and yet, strangely enough, it was the same principle that took our country into war when Hitler's panzers rolled across the Polish border. The long drawn out arguments of the past year about Apartheid, sporting boycotts and all the rest of it have served merely to obscure what, to me, is the crux of the whole matter:- that we in this country enjoy freedoms, rights and privileges that were hard-won and are forever under threat. We returned men were once willing to fight to preserve them; they must never be allowed to go by default. To yield to threats, whether external or internal, is to yield up our freedom.

Within any country, there are two kinds of force:- force that is legalised and controlled and force that is illegal and can quickly become uncontrollable. As mankind emerged from the jungle, tribes and then nations found it essential to make laws governing personal relationships and to establish law-enforcement agencies to protect the rights of the individual and make it possible for an unarmed and non-violent citizen to live in peace and security and to do whatever he wishes to do within the law. The enforcement side has to be subject to strict controls and regulations and, as dictators have often used the armed forces and the police to oppress their own people, there is an obvious need for laws to protect the citizen from the state as well as from his fellow-citizens. This is the rule of law and, without it, there can only be anarchy and a population that lives in fear. We live in one of a rapidly diminishing number of countries where the rule of law is thoroughly-established and safeguarded by a free press, by the right to protest and by the right to change the government by means of free elections. These are our rights and freedoms and it is of vital importance to cherish them and to ensure that they are not taken away from us.

How far does the right to protest extend and when does it cease to be peaceful and non-violent protest? This is a crucial question and it has not been answered satisfactorily in all the written and spoken comments on the events of the tour. There are countless avenues for the making of peaceful protest and a great many organisations and special-interest groups that regularly make strong representations to government and exercise considerable influence in our national affairs. Anyone who has sufficient support can hold a public protest meeting or organise a peaceful march or rally. In fact, the authorities lean over backwards in facilitating protest marches, even when they infringe on the rights of other citizens to use public

THE BATTLE OF MARLBOROUGH STREET (CONTINUED)

places, footpaths and roadways. It has become only too apparent that, for some New Zealanders, these privileges are not enough and they have abused them by forcefully blocking roads, footpaths and the means of access to public places and buildings. Their attitude is:- If we can't persuade them peacefully, then we will use intimidation and whatever force is necessary. This is a total denial of the rule of law and a long step on the way to anarchy. I was appalled recently to hear a young woman in her thirties, who has never been on a protest march in her life, say:- "If a minority group cannot persuade people in the ordinary way, surely it has the right to block a highway to make its point." In other words, everyone has the right to ram his/her opinions down the throats of others.

Freedom is a delicate plant that requires cultivating, nurturing and cherishing if it is to survive. We belong to a generation that has seen freedom wither and die in many countries and that should make us determined to see that it does not wither or die here. When any of our freedoms are under threat from any source, we are being false to ourselves and to our dead comrades in arms if we fail to stand up and be counted.

Cedric Randerson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At our A.G.M. last year, members quickly approved a recommendation from the Committee that annual subscriptions be increased by \$1, the first increase for quite some years. I thought that this increase would be enough to cover cost escalation for a year or two but this year's Accounts show that costs have risen by more than I anticipated they would in one year. Postal charges are going up again this year and the cost of printing seems unlikely to remain unchanged, so it is necessary to consider a further increase in subscriptions. Our main expense is the cost of printing and distributing these Circulars and, as members generally continue to tell us that they want the Circulars to continue, subscription income must be kept to a level that makes this possible.

I think we can just get by without an increase in the 1982/83 year and it simplifies administration if any increase is approved a year in advance, as a fair proportion of members will have already paid up for the present financial year by the time approval has been given. I have therefore asked the Committee to recommend to this year's A.G.M. an increase of \$1 per member as from the 1983/84 year.

Subscription Payments:- I repeat what I said in the December Circular that this month (March) is the best time to pay your sub. for the year that has just commenced and that members unable to be at the function on 28th March should send in their apologies and their sub. payment NOW, using the reply slip in this issue. This will save a lot of work and expense later in the year. It's quite a job to prepare and send out over 100 accounts to the members who have not already paid and the cost of paper, envelopes and postage will now be at least 30 cents for each account sent. It costs just about as much to send out a receipt and anyone wanting a receipt should send a stamped, addressed envelope with his remittance.