



**G. H. HOLFORD** (agricultural scientist):

**VICTORY** will bring a natural feeling of relief and thankfulness along with sobering thoughts of the magnitude of human suffering and physical destruction caused by the greatest of all wars. I hope that the great skill and prodigious effort that has gone to win the war will be sufficiently sustained to win the peace; that the managed indivisible peace will in due time become unnecessary and will merge into a natural peace in an ordered and better world. This I believe can only come by man subduing his tribal instincts of fear, hate and greed. Having gained dominion over his world, man's next task is to secure dominion over himself.



**MRS. K. BICKERTON** (clerical worker):

**SO** it's come at last. I've often dreamed about it and prayed for it—who hasn't? Foe and ally alike, I suppose. I don't feel the wild excitement I thought I would. I feel like going into a corner and crying my eyes out. My thoughts fly to those no longer here—Jim, Allan, Tom—dozens of the old gang, and I wonder how their mothers and widows feel. I pray that post-war planning, of which we have heard so much, will make those left find consolation in the knowledge that their sacrifice was worth it. Millions of pounds have been found for destruction—as easily as a magician produces rabbits from the hat. Let the same be found for construction.



**EDWARD DOWSETT** (businessman):

**THE** war with Nazi Germany is officially ended. For that our hearts are unfeignedly thankful. But, as citizens of the world, we are still facing a task of even greater difficulty—the Winning of Peace. We have to achieve that which to most men must seem almost impossible; we have to find a working basis for international harmony based on spiritual and economic freedom, on goodwill, and, above all, on fundamental justice for all peoples. Half the world is devastated and hungry; we must reconstruct and reclothe. The children of our enemies must become our friends and the broken spirits of the dispossessed must be healed by patient, understanding good fellowship. Christ has shown us the way.



**A. H. O'KEEFE** (civil servant):

**WE** must not forget that the defeat of Germany means only that. I think the Japanese war, with its effects upon China and other Asiatic countries, will have more far-reaching consequences for the future of New Zealand and other Pacific countries than any war in Europe. And just where are we getting to with all these international conferences? San Francisco has met in an atmosphere of competition and uneasy distrust. Unless this atmosphere can be replaced by one of constructive give and take, the outlook for the common man is black. Talk of relaxing controls over imports, manpower and so on at this stage of the war makes me wonder whether certain groups have much besides self or sectional interests at heart.

# PEACE COMES TO THE MAN



**ERNEST E. LEWER** (Civil Servant; returned soldier of this war and the last):

**THANK** God that's over. Let's get back to normality as soon as possible, not forgetting our obligations to assist in freeing the Pacific. We have been living in a false atmosphere. People with no relatives at the front have never fully realised the seriousness of war, and they still don't. There will inevitably be a depression. You can't dig a hole and leave it open; but we must see that it is filled, if possible. We want more population, preferably British, and decentralisation. I now want to see a move away from the towns. Only thus can each be self-supporting. We need more trust, less greed for happiness.



**MARIE VANDEWART** (refugee musician from Germany):

**EVER** since 1933 we have longed for the end of the Nazi regime. Then we didn't realise that Hitler in his downfall would try to wreck Europe with him. The victory confronts us with new problems—not only material reconstruction, but re-education of Germany and real reconciliation. Some people seem surprised that I don't want to go back. Not only do I want to stay in this country where I have learned again to live in freedom, unhaunted by perpetual fear, but everything in Germany would bring back remembrance of what happened to my parents and countless other painful associations.



**BLANCHE CHARLES** (Returned V.A.):

**I WAS** very pleased to be able to take part in the war—in a hospital ship and at the 4th New Zealand General Hospital, and I am sure that the boys still overseas will be joining with us who have returned in rejoicing at the great news. I do not think, though, that the time has yet arrived for a large amount of organised jollification. There are many men overseas, in the front line and also in hospitals, suffering severely. Many are still losing their lives. That thought should restrain us to some extent. Japan has still to be defeated, and that is something that should not be out of our thoughts.



**K. WINEERA** (member of Wellington Harbour Board's staff):

**ALTHOUGH** I feel a great sense of relief, I know that there is still much to be done. I have several relatives overseas. It is my wish that they are unharmed and in such good health that they can rejoice as we are rejoicing over the good news. I hope they feel as secure as we do. It may take some of the boys still away a long time to get home, but now that we know the worst is over we can wait with patience and look forward to meeting them again. Their presence will make everything complete. While they are away there is still much lacking.

**VICTORY**, we know, is not quite the same thing as peace but it is the essential preliminary. What does it mean to us? What does it mean to those who have taken part in the struggle as members of the fighting forces, and what to those who stayed at home? Here are some answers by 20 men and women selected almost (but not quite) at random from our readers. In the main they are impromptu answers, but it is not likely that second thoughts would have been much different.



**A. DUNN** (Tramways Traffic Manager):

**WE** are all emotional creatures, liable to be influenced by the mob mind but I think that, however excited the masses may be, older folk will take things quietly. For myself, there is a feeling of jubilation; but I think too of dear ones who have made the supreme sacrifice, and of others still facing hardship and death in Europe and the Far East. Meanwhile the crowded streets are keeping me fully occupied as a tramway official providing transport.



**DOROTHY PASCOE** (a young mother):

**IT** is necessary that peace in Europe be quickly followed by speed in our efforts to bring peace in the Pacific, followed by the return of fighting men and refugees to their own lands—there to continue the battle with voice and action, and guns if necessary, against the same forces that try to bring fascism in any guise. I hope to see this same vigilance in post-war years devoted to progressive reforms in society so that our children will gain from these years of war.



**MRS. L. WIDDISON** (assistant):

**WHEN** the war is over peace reigns once again would like to live in a world in which the nations are not ruled by selfish interests, but in which the conservation of human life is valued far beyond the attaining of power. No armistices of the 1918-19 brand for me, but an enduring peace in a world in which there is liberty, freedom from oppression, and freedom from war. I want a world in which we can work together for the good of all mankind.



**C. T. LAUGESSEN** (commercial artist):

**AS** an artist, a lover of Nature and the beautiful, I am conscious of the destructive of war to be over-joyful at announcement of victory. I feel a great tension has been eased and I am thankful that the Allies have triumphed after a bitter and bloody struggle. May God grant us wisdom and understanding that we all assist to our utmost in the winning of the peace and the prevention of further clashes between nations.