## OUTPOSTS ISLAND

NEW series of twelve tengive listeners some idea of the history of the islands around her. about New Zealand, has been prepared by Frank A. Simpson, a New Zealand journalist, and will be a feature of Sunday evening broadcasts during the next few weeks from the ZB stations and 2ZA. The opening talk will be on the Auckland Islands, 200 miles south of Stewart Island, which were, for the sealers and whalers of the early 19th Century, a landmark, and a danger signal.

Stories of fortitude in the face of starvation and exposure make up the theme of Auckland Islands history, with that of Captain Musgrave and his companions of the sealer Grafton as an outstanding example. After an unsuccessful foray to Campbell Island, the Grafton proceeded to the Auckland Islands in January, 1864. Working its way



FRANK A. SIMPSON Stories of fortitude in the face of s'arvation

inside the southern Carnley Harbour at minute talks, intended to the height of a vicious gale, the ship was driven broadside on to a rocky ledge and the crew had to abandon The mainsail was used as a tent and planks were removed to build a hut.

"Six long and dreary months have now passed since I left Sydney," Captain Musgrave wrote in his journal on May 15. "The idea of the sad lot which may and must have fallen on those I love so much wrings my soul with agony, and a remorse which I fear is crushing me fast to the ground." The trials of the men increased as the months passed. Seals, which had been the chief food supply, began to migrate; birds caught easily in the first days fled from the guns, and clothes were in tatters. Eventually the ship's dinghy was converted into a seagoing craft and set sail for Stewart Island, leaving the other members of the party safely housed in winter quarters. Public subscriptions were raised in Invercargill and a boat chartered to rescue the remaining castaways.

This gives a brief indication of the nature of the talks, which will go on to describe the fate of the 1100-ton ship Invercauld, bound from Melbourne to England in May, 1864, on the Auckland Islands rocks; and the story of the French whaler, Jean Bart, which used Waitangi, Chatham Islands, as its base.

Other talks will be about the international race to exploit the southern islands of New Zealand at the opening of the last century, and some will touch on Disappointment Island, the exploits of Te Kooti, the Campbell Islands (now an important weather-observing depot manned by New Zealand scientists), the Enderby Colony, early days in the Chathams, Solander Island and the Snares, and numerous incidents of maritime disaster in the last hundred years.

Island Outposts of New Zealand, as these talks are called, will start at 1ZB on February 6, at 2.45 p.m., 2ZB on February 13, at 3.0 p.m., 3ZB on February 20, at 4.15 p.m., 2ZA on March 6, at 2.15 p.m., and 4ZB on March 27, at 3.0 p.m.

(continued from previous page) intensive and constant hammering resulted in the arrival of billy carts. These, coupled with motor goggles made from old gas masks, kept motor racing uppermost for some days. As they are lucky enough to have a bike each, the first sound of the fire siren finds them away, and if they do not land at the site of the fire before the engine itself it is not their fault. A rooster for dinner means much hilarity as the poor carcase is plucked and cleaned in a tub on the lawn between two small boys.

Correspondence Lessons

The time came for holidays to finish and correspondence lessons were then announced. "Blood, sweat and tears" began each day at 9.0 a.m. and often the morning stillness was broken by wails instead of laughter, by Mum's exasperated tones as she strove to take the teacher's place, and by appeals to my sixth-former for help. But all was forgotten when lessons finished, and they were out and about again in a new adventure. Whatever the ideas of examworried older brothers on the advisability of opening schools, I know of

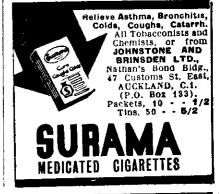
two youths at least who had no qualms at all in keeping them closed. sensible parents who allowed them as much freedom and fresh air as possible, clothed them sensibly and didn't worry unduly about the healthy noises they made, the restrictions meant no hardship to these two.

Yes, they're tough guys all right; but with the advent of a dog or a cat, a monarch butterfly, or even a goldfish, the toughness just disappears and the soft side unashamedly comes to the fore. I have seen hours given over to helping a bird rescued from the cat and to treating the same cat's sore leg. I have often watched as 11-year-old goes off to school. For a moment he pauses, picks up the beloved cat, sits on the back step and cuddles it up to his cheek in farewell; sometimes, with a hurried glance at the kitchen window to see if Mum is looking, he picks one or two flowers which he carries off quite openly (I wonder who gets them!) and he is off to the hard realities of the school room, always, of course, lightened with the make-believe of the playground.

Tough, but nice, the kids next door!







## A LOT OF THROAT

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