

N.Z. AIRMAN'S STORY

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On yet another occasion, a group of us were down town in Singapore when we ran bang into a raid. Or rather the raid ran into us. We were in a car, and all we could do was flop out and get flat in the gutter. A house across the road was blown up and some Chinese killed, but we escaped except for a few superficial injuries such as cuts and shrapnel burns. We had never heard of shrapnel burns before, but the doctor

who attended to us explained that shrapnel very often produced burns just like a hot iron. Later that same night we had to dive for shelter from two further raids.

"My Luck Was In"

But I think my luck was in. When the time came for us to leave Singapore I was evacuated in a Chinese ship of a few thousand tons. There must have been about 1,500 on her, all told. The ship which left directly after us was bombed for about six hours, and at one stage there were 84 'planes over her. She received some direct hits, but the boys manned the anti-aircraft guns all the same, and brought down several. Again, when we left Palembang after a three days' stay there, the sirens were going for the first raid on that part of Sumatra. And we left Batavia to the accompaniment of the first raid on the docks there.

Our squadron managed to put up a pretty good show everything considered. Some had up to five Japanese confirmed as shot down. The trouble was that the wrecked aircraft got lost in the jungle, and could not be checked up. Wipiti's was a case in point. He did a great job and got several confirmed, but we all reckoned he got more than he actually received credit for.

Up a Tree

But I think the luckiest New Zealander was Sergeant-Pilot M. Greenslade, who is back home now after being shot down between the Australian and Japanese lines. He looked round one day and found 30 fighters on his tail. He did all he could, but part of his tail assembly was shot away, and then his motor was



TWO NEW ZEALAND FLYERS who fought in Malaya. Sergeant-Pilot Kronk (left) and Sergeant-Pilot B. S. Wipiti, D.F.M., a young Maori flyer, who left Singapore with several 'planes to his credit

hit and he went into a dive. He undid his straps, shoved his stick forward, shot out and parachuted down. He was attacked as he fell, but landed on the top of a rubber tree. Even then they

saw the parachute against the foliage and machine-gunned him, so he slid down the trunk. He told me he looked at the tree afterwards and couldn't think how he had managed it.

Advice From One Who Knows

HERE is some advice from a returned New Zealand Sergeant-Pilot about air raids:

"Get into a trench or shelter. If there's no trench or shelter in sight, lie down flat, the lower the better. Whatever you do, don't stand around in streets.

"Most of the Japanese anti-personnel bombs I saw used in Singapore detonated immediately they struck the ground. They made hardly any crater, but hurled splinters and fragments over a wide radius. They were certainly "grass cutters." I even saw the surface of bitumen roads shaved clean by this type of bomb.

"There is no doubt about it, a trench is the safest place. I've seen our chaps emerge without a scratch after what appeared to be a direct hit."

"Our Men Want Books This Winter"

"THE War Library Service wants more books," said the Hon. H. G. R. Mason, Minister of Education, in a recent broadcast. He asked the public, the libraries, and the schools each to do their part in restocking the War Library Service. Here is portion of his broadcast:

THE provision of books and magazines for the men in our fighting forces is a never-ending job. The appeal launched early in the war was responded to nobly and something like half a million books and magazines have been distributed. But, books wear out and more and more men join the armed forces. The need for material increases and the supply of good material has been decreasing. This winter we want not only to continue the supply to our men overseas, we want to provide a worth-while service to the men who will be in camp in New Zealand.

Examine your book shelf. Perhaps you have given already all the books you can spare easily. Examine the shelf again, and think of the men who will spend the long winter evenings in camp, away from their homes, away from the amenities of large towns, in camp guarding New Zealand. The time has come to give not just what we can spare easily, but to give our best books. Don't use the War Library Service as a dump for rubbish. There is a place for your old worn out books, but it is not the War

Library Service. Old books can play a part in our war effort if they are pulped but I am not here to-night to tell you about that. The War Library Service wants books which are in physically sound and clean condition, amusing books, serious books, exciting books, sparkling, controversial books, up-to-the-minute books.

Methods of Collection

Magazines are always in demand. Get ready all the good material you have available, whether books or magazines. If there is a public library conveniently near take it there; if your local branch of the R.S.A. or any other organisation collects regularly for the War Library Service let them have your contribution. But in many cases these media of collection may not exist or may not be convenient. This is where I am going to ask the teachers and boys and girls in our schools to give a hand.

I want to ask every boy and girl in Standards III. and IV. and Forms I. and II. in our primary schools, and all boys and girls in secondary schools to collect for the War Library Service ten good

books or magazines during April. Full directions will be sent to schools shortly regarding the transport of the material to camps. In the meantime, start canvassing your friends to get some really good books and magazines ready for you. Material collected should be kept at the school until you are told where to send it. The details of the method of collection I leave to head teachers, and I ask confidently for their co-operation.

So far I have been speaking of the gifts from private individuals. I want now to ask the public library authorities of New Zealand to mobilise a small proportion of their stock for presentation to the War Library. The Council of the New Zealand Library Association has expressed its willingness to endorse an appeal to library authorities for a grant of books of general interest from their stocks, and has suggested that the minimum quota each library should aim at giving should be equal to two per cent. of the population served by the library. Most libraries have upon their shelves a fair number of good books, some of them duplicates which are not being used much now, because most of the library's readers have seen them already. Put these books at the service of the men who have left your district to serve in the forces.

"Easy Aces" Buy Bomber Bonds

RADIO in America has played a full part in selling American Defence Bonds. Not only has Tin Pan Alley ground out countless patriotic songs emphasising the duty of good American citizens to invest in bonds, but many of the regular network shows have also "plugged" Defence Bonds. A recent programme of "Easy Aces" was written entirely around the theme of Defence Bonds, and by a coincidence its broadcast in New Zealand occurred during "Bonds for Bombers Week."

The sponsors of the programme thought the coincidence sufficiently remarkable to cable Mr. and Mrs. Ace: "Your programme on Defence Bonds very much appreciated and proved very useful in New Zealand. . . ." A cabled reply came almost immediately, "Delighted Defence Bond programme contributed to New Zealand Bonds for Bombers campaign. Forwarding therewith draft for two hundred and fifty dollars. Please purchase bonds to this value on our behalf. Best wishes to all New Zealanders in their efforts to assist war programme.— Jane and Goodman Ace."