

# What Shall We Do With Soldiers And Sailors?



(Continued from previous page)

the circle. "We tried dancing, and some managed to follow their partners, but Dick and I just got all tangled up so we sat out and talked. I thought he might be interested in details about New Zealand, and was amazed to find that he knew almost more about our little country than I did. He could tell me the population, chief towns, industries, give statistical figures, and details of our early history. He explained that as soon as sailors know their probable destination they swot up all the available books on the subject they can get hold of. The majority of those I meet seem to be well educated and very keen to learn. They escorted us home just as our New Zealand boys would have done, and were very anxious to see us again. Since then Dick and I have gone out a lot together. Occasionally we have dinner in town and then go on to pictures or dancing, and on other nights he comes home with me and we have a quiet evening round the fire."

## An Independent

PAT doesn't belong to any of the clubs, but each Saturday night she asks her father to bring home a couple of lads from his club, and she arranges for a girl friend or two to call round. "It's lots more fun than going to the pictures, and in a very short time we're jolly good friends. We bombard the boys with questions about Hollywood and what they do back home, and the boys retaliate with similar questions about New Zealand. If we find they're not the talkative kind we suggest cards, table tennis, Monopoly, or some of the old-fashioned parlour games. Last trams or the town clock striking twelve don't worry these boys, and sometimes mother has to remark discreetly that it's perhaps time we finished up for to-night. They are always reluctant to leave, and their 'thank you, Mom, we've had a swell time' rings sincerely."

## Engaged Girl

JEAN'S fiancé is training as a pilot in Canada and his letters are always full of details of the lavish hospitality of the

folk there. So she and her sister feel that whatever they can do to entertain servicemen is just a little in return for what is being done for her friends overseas. "We make a point of bringing the young boys home—and some of them are just kids straight from school. Then as some of us are several years their senior we can take them to pictures, concerts, and so on, and not let them dip into their pockets at all. They seem to enjoy plain home cooking, and some of them love to play round in the kitchen making "cookies" and "soda biscuits!"

## Mother of One Daughter

"I'M only too pleased," a mother told us, "to have any Americans brought up to the house, provided Jane rings me up beforehand. With the shortage of such standbys as eggs and tinned food, it's very hard to provide impromptu meals for two or three extra. The burden of the entertaining usually falls on me—Jane can't go out with soldiers and be chief cook and bottle-washer too. Not that I mind, because it's little enough I can do in return for what's being done for my sons overseas."

"At the moment Jane's very much taken up with an American officer. I'm a little worried in case she's being attracted solely by a fascinating accent and a gold-braided uniform, although personally I like him. However, because of the quota difficulties I don't feel justified in encouraging anything in the way of a serious romance."

## Mother of Four Daughters

"I JUST pop a few extra potatoes into the pot and then there's always plenty. You get used to allowing for one or two extra when you have several girls each with her boy friend. No, it doesn't worry me if the girls have little affairs with the Americans, or with any other boys for that matter. They're all quite capable of looking after themselves. Why when I was their age, during the last war, I was always falling for some blue-eyed middle, and then when a brown-eyed subaltern would come along, I'd be after him. But they were all just passing fancies."

## PORT NICHOLSON BAND.

BECAUSE so many members of the Port Nicholson Silver Band are on active military service, this popular broadcasting combination has been compelled to close down on all public performances for the duration of the war, but the remaining members are keeping in practice.

After twenty years of broadcasting, this band has become a favourite, not only with the citizens of Wellington but also with listeners all over New Zealand. No fewer than 23 members are now rendering service to their country in some capacity or other.

The band was recently placed under the conductorship of Ron Fenton, a son of that well-known bandsman, the late Mr. W. Fenton, of Christchurch.



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