

days!), passage for 25 was arranged, the fare providing the right to stop at ports of call of the Colonies and to follow on by any ship desired.

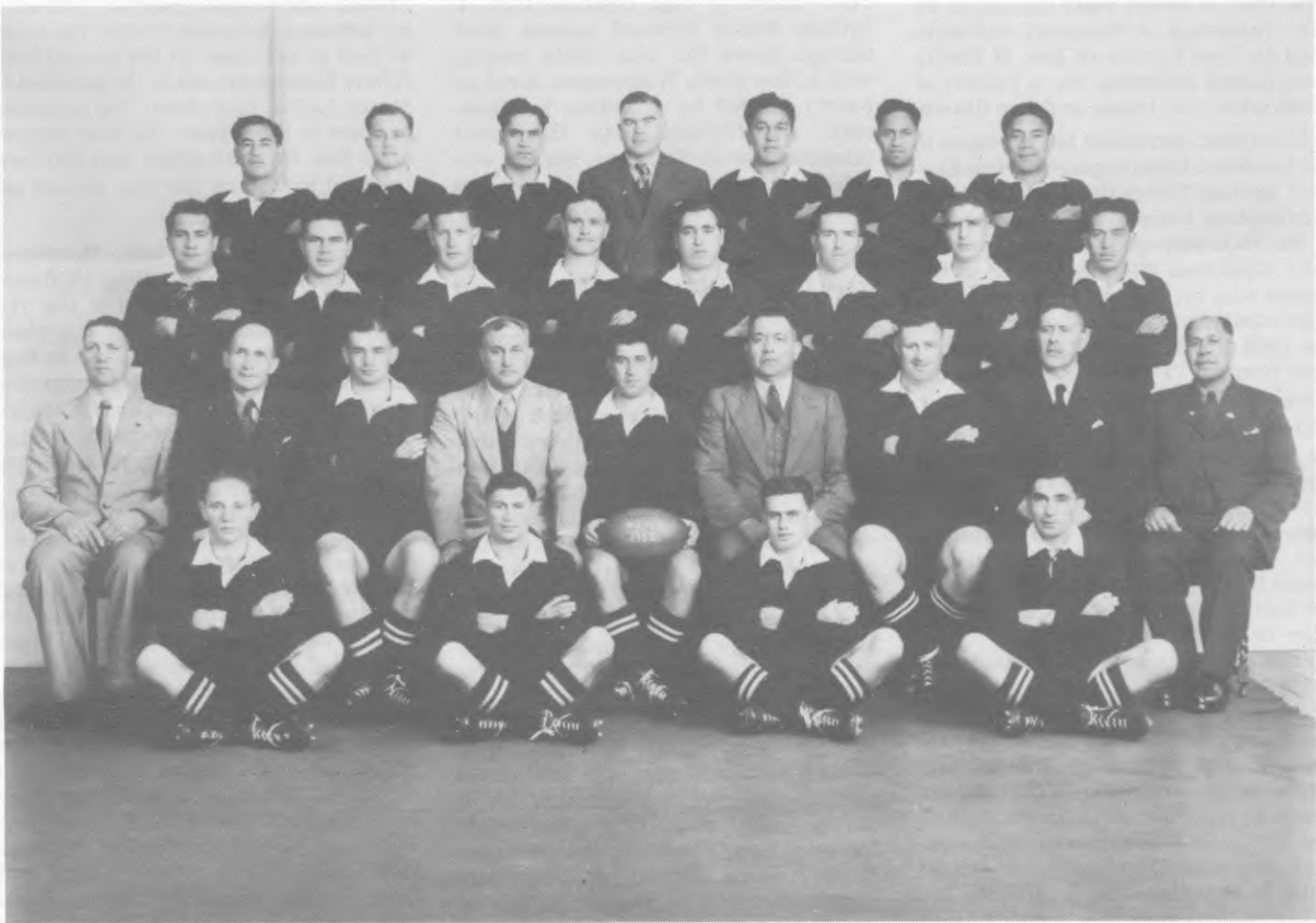
Eyton and Warbrick headed for Melbourne where they were conned by a Mr Scott who for £200 said he would initiate the players into the arts and sciences of what is now Australain Rules football. There was no time to learn, the team were too busy playing Rugby. That £200 was sadly regretted. But the expedition set off; and except for another casualty in a forward, Rene, who injured his foot while bathing in the Suez Canal, it arrived in good heart, settled in at Richmond and trained for the first match, at Old Deer Park — still going strong — against Surrey. The boys were in pretty good nick. As need be, they had taken turns at stoking the ship's fires as it trundled

from Melbourne to London. Later All Black teams followed the same practice. There are easier jobs of work — but they do concentrate the mind quite wonderfully on the importance of physical fitness.

Eyton says the team played 108 matches around the world. More recent authorities give the figure as 107. No matter now. Twenty-three of the matches were lost. It was a stupendous exercise in physical fitness; and one can only marvel at the effort of the three-quarter or halfback, Davey or "Pony" Gage in playing in 68 of the 74 matches in the United Kingdom. On the return Australia, he had to leave the team because of the illness of a relative. But, eight years later, he was still playing for Auckland. The first team of the side was reckoned to be William Warbrick at fullback, "Barlow" "Runaway

House" Madigan, "Tabby" Wynyard and Gage at threequarters, Fred Warbrick, Paddy Keogh and "Mother" Elliott at halfbacks, Tom Ellison, George Williams, Dick Maynard, Arthur Warbrick, Harold Lee, Bill Anderson, Richard Taiaroa and "Sherry" Wynyard at forward.

If I have dwelt at length on this pioneering visit, it is to establish how readily and successfully Maoris were assimilated into and became proficient at Rugby. Their natural gifts of strength, courage and audacity were ideally suited to both attack and defence. The man-to-man contest implicit in honest and well-fought Rugby so well suited the Maori temperament that, in fancy, one is disposed to think William Webb Ellis might have had a touch of the Maori in him when he first picked up the ball and ran with it, thus



A NEW ZEALAND MAORI TEAM versus A NEW ZEALAND RUGBY TEAM

Farewell Match

**In Honour of their Excellencies Lord & Lady Freyberg Wellington
26 July 1952**

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|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Back Row: | P. Hapi | T. Katene | R.T. Gardiner | A.H. Wright W.R.F.U. | R.S. Clarke | T.D. Kipa | G. Parahi | | |
| Second Row: | N.P. Cherrington | A. Pryor | B.W. Beazley | S.K. McLaughlin | E. Murray | B.K. Jones | T.J. French | W. Tangira | |
| Sitting: | S.T. Reid (Selector) | T.A. French (Selector) | A.W. Blake (Vice-Captain) | H.T. Reedy (Co Manager) | J.B. Smith (Captain) | R.M. Love (Co Manager) | L.W. Hohaia | E. Edwards (Selector) | R. Tapa (M.A.B.) |
| In Front: | P.N. Jones | | A.J. Douglas | | K. Davis | | P. Erceg | | |