

recruits, but Sergeant Perreau proved a tower of strength. By superhuman efforts, he managed to get one of the stoves working, and on September 30th the first meal was cooked on the Station.

The following day was a busy one for all concerned, and an important one in the history of Ohakea. The first task was the attesting of all the recruits, and taking their measurements for uniforms, the latter, always to be remembered in the life of a man, be he airman, soldier or sailor. Later the recruits were organised into Flights, and, until the following morning, employed in interior economy.

From a Headquarters point of view, September 24th was a very important day in the annals of Ohakea, for on that date the first Routine Orders were published, together with provisional Station Standing Orders. Although this does not sound very exciting, it was something to be proud of when it is realised that every copy had to be typed by hand. As the only typewriter on the Station was a small portable one owned by Flight Lieutenant Rabone, this was no mean feat. However, by making an early start, sufficient copies were turned out by 1600 hours to supply all the notice-boards.

Perhaps the 25th of September, 1939, was actually the most momentous occasion in the history of Ohakea, and one little likely to be forgotten by those who were on the Station at that time. This never-to-be-forgotten event was the first Squadron parade!

What a scene it was!

As a parade it was unique—and as a fashion display it could not be paralleled! Every description of dress appeared, from the latest creation of the Dominion's most select tailors, right down to the lowly flannel bags—in fact, one recruit even had the temerity to appear in—plus fours! The remarks of his fellows were, as may be imagined, more expressive than polite, and anything but polite. They indicated, in unmistakable language, that "plus fours" were simply not the correct dress for such an occasion. However, bright plumage does not necessarily make fine birds, and what these young air-men recruits lacked in sartorial adornment, they certainly made up for in—enthusiasm.

The aforementioned default was soon remedied, for, on the 26th the majority of the men were enabled to exchange their motley clothing for suits of navy blue combination—overalls, the regulation work-dress of the Air Force. After that, the parade ground had a less upsetting appearance, although the variety of civilian headgear left much to be desired.

Another incident that marks September, 1939, as being the most fateful month, occurred on the 26th. This was the arrival on the flying-field of the first plane, No. 2KAAC,