



--- Number III --- Saturday --- 16th. January, 1943. ---

-- EDITORIAL --

One of the most hard-working social insects on the face of the earth is the bee. It works according to a marvellous plan. Those who have made a study of architecture and of engineering are in wonder at the beauty yet economy of its work in the construction of the comb in which is stored the precious honey. The geometric form of the honey cell has been worked out mathematically, as being the almost perfect economic form of storage. A maximum of honey can be put in a minimum of space. The bee makes a honey comb, and then sets about filling it. And yet the bee does not work by intelligence, but by instinct. It has a job of work to do, and it does it smoothly, efficiently, and economically.

Man normally does not act by instinct. He reasons and the performance of his work is the result of his intellectual processes. It may be a far cry from the carrying out of a command in a war zone, to a reasoning process. We have a job to do - not the building of a honey comb - but the building of a world in which it is no disgrace for a free human being to live. Let us not become mere dumb animals, working by instinct. Let us preserve that which is our own special right - our ability to reason. Perhaps we are unable to see the sense in doing this or that, but do not forget, the winning of the war does not depend on our individual effort any more than the whole hive depends on the work of one bee. It is the co-operative effort that will eventually bring victory. Let our reasons proceed along these lines - and then we will be acting, not as automatons or robots, but as rational human beings.

WEEKLY WHO'S ZOO. (We apologise for our previous misspelling.)

PETERSEN, Hans Christian Frithjof.:

Born: In the "Gay Nineties" in a Ford (Sorry, Florid), Exactly nine months and a day after weekend boat trip of Greta Garbo and King Haakon.

Married: Result - One (so far!!).

Church: Ile Nou Recreational (by compulsion).

Service: Permanent-soldier. World War I Hero. Has written his memoirs in three beautifully bound volumes under the title of "Pete's Past".

Education: Until expulsion, at St. Cuthbert's School for girls where he took honours in sewing and keen interest in sport. Expulsion said to be due to a foul in three legged race. Later full time pupil at Terminus Hotel.

Hobbies: Has many financial interests. Founder of "Pete's Pakapoo Palace", Haining St. and said to have controlling interest in "Hawke Eye's Hangout", Hobson St. Great lover of music - will listen to Vera Lynn and Boswell Sisters for hours on end.

Tattooed lady on arm reputed to be

-- MISS FIRES --

A beautiful array of sunburnt bodies was observed on the B.C.'s. inspection parade the other day -- a feature of our backless N.Z. issue shirts !!!

~o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

What American Sergeant went into a darkroom, with a French lassie, to develop photos, and developed photos.

~o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Letter to the Editor:

We note with shame that contributions to your noble "Gun Flash" have on our part "Mis-fired". We shall attempt to introduce "Percussion firing" and blast something out of somebody. Frankly, we are afraid of putting a spanner in the works.

Signed "Cold Chisel".

his first love - probably partner fouled in above mentioned three legged race.

Aspires to stand for Parliament in his fight for higher wages, shorter hours for N.Z. Militia.

Favourite Expression: "I'll look into that".

SPORTING NOTE:

This week R.H.Q. took on F.C.P. for a cricket match and found them a bit tougher to dispose of than 150 Bty. Nevertheless, they came out on top (naturally - that's where all the trains are).

The scores were:-

R.H.Q.	66
F.C.P.	50

Top scorer this game was Cnr. "Extras", the only trouble being that he seems to have favoured both sides equally with a substantial addition to their scores.

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The "Jervois Bay",

'Twas a black November morning,
And the convoy under way,
When a lad espied a raider,
From atop the "Jervois Bay".

... ..

"Clear the decks for action",
Was the order of the day,
As intrepid Captain Faigan,
Steamed into the fray.

... ..

Only a light-armed merchant cruiser,
Against a modern battleship,
But they fought that gallant action,
Just to let the convoy slip.

... ..

On her decks lay dead and dying,
For them their race was run,
But as the convoy scattered,
They knew their fight was won.

... ..

Do not weep, but let us glory,
And forever and a day,
Recall in song and story,
The gallant "Jervois Bay".

Anon.

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THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:

The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.

Loss may be no dishonour, but dishonour may be the dearest loss.

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CEMENTING ALLIED FRIENDSHIPS:

Batmen polishing brass, Sam Brownes glittering, several gentlemen practising or rather polishing up their French. What we want to know is, if one certain officer still thinks F.C.P. means "Fire Command Post", or does it mean "French Consort Perfectly", or should we say "Femmes Cuddle Perfectly". Judging by the whistling lately we consider it the latter. Signed.....Neutral.

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SOS SOS SOS

150 Bty Calling!!!!

Spanners urgently required. Also men to guard guards guarding spanners.

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"Why didn't you salute?"

"Sir, I thought you were mad at me."

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ARMY EDUCATION:

After more than 3 years of war the question of Army Education is still being referred to in the future tense. In the Evening Post of Dec 12 the Minister of Defence (Mr. Jones) deplored the fact that "today thousands of our young men who normally would be receiving a civilian training are being denied that right as a result of the war". He was concerned in particular with the lads of 18 who are divorced from their ordinary training or education. These lads have been taken in their most receptive years, disciplined, trained and molded into fine soldiers, sailors, or airmen, but, after 3, 4, or 5 years, they will be returned to civilian life sadly handicapped by their lack of civilian training.

A survey of one of the batteries reveals that more than half had not received post-primary education and about one sixth had received 3 years secondary education. On investigation of their occupational fitness, it was found that possibly 20% were fully trained in one trade, and 5% were adept in 2 or more trades. Of these men 80% were keenly interested in furthering their education.

It is understood that the difficulties confronting the furtherance of an educational scheme are enormous. A wide variety of subjects must be catered for; the training must fit in with the real job of the army and the organisation of large and separate bodies of men into classes would be quite difficult. However, these difficulties are far from insurmountable.

The role of Coast Defence is particularly suited to this ideal. The very permanency of most positions and the amount of time at our disposal are two good reasons to support that contention. To state simply that there is a need and demand action, without a few suggestions, is often termed as grousing. This correspondent has these suggestions to make, none of which are immoderate, and all of which are particularly applicable to this Regiment.

Firstly the institution of a good library on similar lines to the Red Cross library provided for the use of the U.S. Troops here. This is an urgent need of immediate as well as future importance.

Secondly it should be possible to provide lessons in French. It is universally recognised that this is something of real value to troops stationed on this island. Many have had grounding in French and, with the excellent opportunities for practice here, would find it a simple matter to become proficient in the tongue of our allies.

Then there is a large field of subjects on the physical side of our neglected education. In spite of lessons of the Pacific War and the many endeavours to overcome this deficiency, there is still a large number of soldiers who cannot swim. With the facilities available, and the dozens of expert swimmers as instructors, there is no good reason for any man not to be proficient in the water. And there are many other talents possible to us if we only receive the instruction.

Hence this article can only conclude, as so many others of similar vein have concluded, with the hope that the good intentions of the Adjutant-General and his associates will one day result in some form of tangible education for the men who most need, the thousands who have given their best years in the hope that they will someday return to a secure civilisation where they will be able to take their rightful place on an equal basis with those fortunate enough to have been able to complete their civil education.

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IS YOUR NUMBER UP ?

Do you meander in a mathematical maze?
Are you allergic to aneroid abnormalities ?

In other words, is the weather getting you down ?

Let Mac, the mentor of mathematics, Micturation and meteorology and other morbidities, help you figure it out. The author of such terrestrial tomes as "The Seven Figures of Legdom", "Weather Wisdom for Wandering Woovers", and "Simulated Sex for Single Soldiers" now confounds science with his latest brainstorm, "Mathemania".

Acclaimed by Les Folies Bergeres, as "Le Dernier Cri".

Press Comments:- "London Crimes" - "Too" enough, old man; New York Times - Here's a good one; Itchi Itchi Tin Bum - Honourable Tome NTB; Berliner Flabbergacht - Das ist nein tach baden; Pravda - Nitohka Badski; John A Wee's Leaky - Capatalistic, Miduration - Stinks !!

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"I mean to say"

"Gunner Bill"

By Ven.



The Language Barrier.

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NOTE: Will contributors please limit their contributions to a maximum of 400 words per article. (Find us an inexhaustible source of stencils and paper and we'll print longer ones).

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Printed and published with all care but absolutely no sense of responsibility, by the Editor, Padre Ward, and S/Sgt. Bennett, at "The Ruins", Ile Nou, New Caledonia.