

Many a returned soldier will consider dairy-farming as a career after the war, but he would do well to think the whole matter over first, to know his own capabilities and shortcomings, and to be careful in buying his land. Many a failing farm could be run successfully by the right man, and, on the other hand, a prosperous place could be a poor proposition in the hands of an incompetent or easy-going farmer. It may not be a get-rich-quick career, but it can provide a happy, healthy life for a man who wants an open-air existence.



The farmer and his family.

## DESERT SAWS

Newsletter of the 6th Brigade in the Alamein Line

### A KORERO Report

**M**OST SOLDIERS have heard of *N.Z.E.F. Times* and *Kiwi News*, and a good many know the *Eighth Army News*, *Parade*, and other Army newspapers produced, some in the field, to cater for troops away from their home countries. In the Pacific, at any rate, there have also been several more circumscribed publications, or unit news-sheets, serving isolated garrisons on various lonely islands, and there has hardly been a troopship that left New Zealand without yielding a ship's magazine by the end of the voyage.

Perhaps one of the least known but most interesting news-sheets produced in the field, often actually under shell-fire, was *Desert Saws*, or the 6th N.Z. Infantry Brigade's Newsletter, published daily in the Alamein Line for about six weeks during August and the first half of September, 1942.

Second only to the flies, boredom and uncertainty were the main bugbears of life in the Alamein Line during that period between the stabilization of the line towards the end of July and Rommel's last vain attempt to smash through to his goal. Both sides spent those searing

summer days improving their defences, building up their offensive power, and continually probing the other's lines to keep *au fait* with probable intentions. Rumours, always at a premium among soldiers in the field, flew thick and fast, for the fog of war is always thickest in the most forward areas. Intelligence summaries were issued as often as the information merited, of course, down to Divisional H.Q., but these contained fairly technical information, not always available or of particular interest to the ordinary soldier.

Sponsored by Brigadier G. H. Clifton, Commander of the 6th Brigade, and produced on the orderly-room duplicator, the first number of the *Brigade Newsletter*, as it was at first called, was published on the last day of July. It consisted of a half-sheet of foolscap, distributed down to infantry companies and equivalent sub-units, and contained a brief summary of local news, comprising mainly reports of the previous night's patrols. The third number, produced on August 2, was more ambitious, being typed on both sides of a full sheet, and containing news of local operations,