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STRIPES

Gunner B----- was walking down High Street, Rangiora with a bright young lady recently, when whom should they meet but Sergeant-Major M. Later the young lady asked what the three stripes and the crown stood for. The gunner replied that the crown showed he was a married man and the stripes showed the number of children he had. They went further along High Street and met a Bombardier. "My," exclaimed the young lady, "isn't he a naughty man."

---"EROS"

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WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR RAID

(1) As soon as the bombs start dropping run like hell (it doesn't matter where.)

(2) Wear track shoes if possible. If those in front are too slow, you won't have any trouble stepping over them.

(3) If you find an unexploded bomb, always pick it up and shake it well. (maybe the firing-pin is stuck).

(4) If you should be the victim of a direct hit, don't go to pieces. Lie still and you won't be noticed.

---"WARDEN"

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PAY

Who does the wording of Army forms? I'm looking at Army Form 01700. It's the first form the budding soldier fills up, and before he signs it he must be sure he's read the bit at the bottom. What it says is: "For this purpose the expression 'pay' means the rate of pay to which the soldier is entitled and any proficiency pay or analogous emolument." "Analogous emolument"! It's moved an ex-soldier of my acquaintance to humour. He says he can see a lot of parents scratching their heads over the news that Albert's got an analogous emolument" and wondering whether, if he should get home on leave, they ought to make a wire cage for it in the garden or borrow an extra large frying-pan.

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Y.M.C.A. HUT

Glowing convivial atmosphere, animated talk

Hazy, friendly reek of tobacco smoke;

Card-players under diffused lights, terse  
and preoccupied -

Soldiers strolling breezily exuberant in  
their walk;

Someone strums a popular song

On the dust-flecked, tuneless piano

And lusty voices blend with the night

For tomorrow - who knows? - some may be gone;

Here a friendly threshold, a welcome nook

For leisure hours and lonely moments

With comrades in arms - a voluble company

Or a haven in which to enjoy the tranquility  
of a book.

- N.E.H.