

# The Frontiersman

NEW ZEALAND

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A sylvan scene near Lake Mahinapua, Westland, South Island, New Zealand

*N.Z. Govt. Publicity Photo*

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# The Frontiersman

NEW ZEALAND

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## What is the Legion?

BROADCAST BY COL. WESTON.

### DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL.

[THE following address was given by the Commissioner, Colonel C. Weston, K.C. D.S.O. V.D., from 2YA on Friday, October 23rd at 7.30 p.m. It is reproduced with the permission of the Commissioner, and gives in concise form a resume of the birth, growth and activities of the Legion.]

On Sunday next, (25th October) is being unveiled by Captain D'Esterre a memorial to the memory of 9000 Frontiersmen who fell in the Great War. A rubble column surmounted by a cross of white marble, the memorial stands at the corner of the Tokaomun and Taumarunui roads close by the National Park station.

The site, which has been dedicated by the Lands Department in perpetuity, looks out across a countryside that stretches wild and untamed towards snow-capped Tongariro in the distance. Exposed to nature in all her moods; lashed by storm, bathed in the warmth of the summer sunshine, this is just such a spot as a Frontiersman would welcome for his last resting place.

What manner of men were those 9000 whose memory this simple monument perpetuates, and who are their comrades who thus do honour to them?

Founded nearly forty years ago by Captain Roger Poesck of the North West (Canadian) Mounted Police, the Legion of Frontiersmen is a name per-

haps unknown to many in New Zealand but its members are numbered wherever the Union Jack is unfurled. Poesck had served in South Africa with other hardy spirits imbued with the romance of the Empire's frontiers. From all quarters of the Globe his comrades had come, English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Canadians, Australian gentlemen, New Zealand bushmen, Britishers from all parts of Africa, North and South of the Equator; from India, Burma, Malaya, Polynesia. Whenever the sun rose and set some were found whose daily life demanded all the qualities of a pioneer: endurance, resource, courage, loyalty to comrades.

Poesck's idea was to enlist men of that breed in one corps. He succeeded; and to-day they muster many thousands. Poesck in other times would have been a gentleman of fortune, with a ready wit and tongue and artist's pen. Always a decisive soldier, he gave the Legion its standards. Possibly he had Kipling's song of the Lost Legion, the Legion of the Damned, in mind when he chose the name. He himself had times when bitter adversity was his lot and he met them unflinchingly. He was followed by Colonel Driscoll of East African fame; a big hearted gallant Irishman, who lived and died on the Frontier.

The Headquarters of the Legion is in London. The New Zealand Command includes a great many ex-service men, and while in the spread of civilisation some of the old frontiers are gone, the spirit of the frontiersman remains and the young men who still preserve the love of adventure that set old Drake a-sailing and the

school boy of 1914 marching, is welcome in their ranks. Their keynote is loyalty to the Empire and they are pledged to defend it if necessary. While peace reigns their main principle is to assist the Defence system of their country.

The Legion was commenced in New Zealand by Frontiersman John Cook in Christchurch and later by Captain D'Esterre in Auckland. In the latter place, through the urge of D'Esterre's pen in the Auckland Weekly News, they joined in their hundreds. D'Esterre holds the firm conviction that prior to 1914 the pioneers in the backblocks of New Zealand had some prophetic sense of danger coming to the Empire. To-day the Legion is meeting with the same experience—all over New Zealand wherever it is established men in ones and twos are offering their services with a will to assist.

The Headquarters are at Hawke's Bay where Commandant J. C. Findlater is stationed and under his command are some fifteen squadrons. To many citizens of New Zealand the Frontiersmen are known by their picturesque blue uniforms, shoulder chains and peaked hats and their presence at public ceremonies is appreciated by the authorities in charge. Their badge represents the seal of General Gordon with the inscription "God Guard Thee."

One of those invited to the unveiling will be Mrs Twistleton, the widow of Major Twistleton, M.C., who was killed in Palestine in July, 1918. On August 4th, 1914 he led one hundred fully equipped men and horse, from Poverty Bay to Teutham Camp. They were from C Squadron of the Legion and 92 of them are buried in

foreign lands. Twistleton was a typical Frontiersman—quiet and reserved, respected and liked by his comrades.

From August onwards, the Legion enlisted almost to a man. In all cases but one they were absorbed into the ranks with the other recruits, but in German East Africa they provided a whole Battalion under Colonel Driscoll and kept it up to strength during the campaign. This was one of the London Battalions of Kitchener's Army. The Legion's casualties were heavy and of such casualties more were killed than wounded. Altogether some 9000 died in action.

It is to the memory of men such as this that their comrades are dedicating this monument on Sunday. May it stand for ever as at once a tribute to the past and an inspiration for the future.



#### OBITUARY.

On the 12th October occurred the death of Pm. John James Smith, of Timaru troop. Deceased met his death through an unfortunate motor accident caused by visibility in the fog. Pm. Smith was a native of Ahepleen and served in the South African War, and on his discharge he sailed for New Zealand, taking up farming in North Otago and later in South Canterbury. On the outbreak of the Great War he joined the 6th Reinforcements, in which he served as Q.M.S. He was invalided from Gallipoli, but returned to duty and was selected for a commission, passing through the training school with special merit. At the close of hostilities he held the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. The deceased comrade was a highly respected member of the R.S.A. and was well-known throughout the South Island for his generosity, which he extended to those in straitened circumstances.

Bandsman John Parry 16710, of 1 Squadron Band, a talented musician of the old school, who when at his best was a brilliant performer on seven separate instruments, has passed away after a short illness. Many members of 1 Squadron paraded for a most impressive funeral service under Captain T. J. I. Thomson and Lieut. Jupp, Bandmaster, and thereafter proceeded to the Crematorium where

last respects were paid. The late bandsman was highly esteemed, and this was amply demonstrated by the large attendance at his funeral, which took place on Thursday, October 22nd.

Word has just come in to (Adjutant) Lieut. A. A. Duncan that another break in the ranks of 1. Squadron, Wellington has to be reported, Brian Seed has passed away. He was only 30 and leaves a widow and many comrades, to mourn his passing.

#### LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN. NEW ZEALAND COMMAND.

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Commandant J. C. Finlatter.

##### Chief of Staff.

Major W. Ricketts, D.C.M.

##### Commissioner.

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##### D.S.O., V.D.

##### Staff Officers.

Captain P. A. Warren.

Lieut. W. Wearne.

##### Liaison Officer.

Lieut. D. H. Graham.



## The Frontiersman

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1936.

#### EDITORIAL.

WE regret that owing to pressure on space several interesting items notably the history of C Squadron (Gisborne) have had to be held over until the December Issue. A feature this month is the reproduction on our paper of the Memorial at National Park, which is sent with the compliments of the publishers to all subscribers. The expense has been met privately, and it is our hope that this little service will be a means of adding further to the value of the work the Frontiersman is doing.

#### THE LAST PHASE IN ABYSSINIA.

Even in her death struggles, Ethiopia remains true to the African tradition, and is providing the world with something new. There can surely be

no precedent for the present situation. Italy has neither conquered nor pacified the country, the most populous parts of which are still untouched, but she is in a position to blow up or smother with poison gas any town, village, or concentration of troops. This seems to constitute a de facto occupation, but only the Republic of San Marino would appear to have acknowledged it, and the huge area is now a problem for international lawyers. Once the rains are over, Italian planes can easily reach a specified point in Ethiopia within an hour or two. From this point of view the only limits to her dominion are the territories of other Powers—France and Great Britain. Yet to occupy the same places by land might take weeks of travelling, and involve much doubtful fighting. It looks as if we shall have to revise all our ideas about "effective occupation" and sovereignty. Yet in Europe people are still thinking in terms of the Boer War and of "provisional Governments moving to places of safety," says the New Statesman and Nation (England).

It is not merely that Abyssinian communications are specially bad. Flying has entirely altered the position over all North-East Africa. The Sudan, south of Khartoum, Eritrea, the three Somalilands, are equally dependent on pack animals, on lorries moving slowly over rough roads or steamers doing their three or four miles an hour. The aeroplane covers in a few hours distances which take several days by land if the route is prepared, and weeks if it is not. Anyone who has read Mr Churchill's River War, and knows the country, can imagine what would have happened if aeroplanes had been developed thirty years ago. Kitchener would certainly have got to Khartoum in a few weeks and there would probably have been no great battle at Omdurman. No such large concentration of the Khalifa's troops would have been possible, and the unfortunate Abdullah would have found that any place to which he went would have been immediately destroyed. On the other hand, the Fashoda incident would have turned out very differently, for Marchand would presumably have been supported and supplied by French aeroplanes, and their claim to the southern provinces would have been incontestable. The question before the world is whether the ability to bomb and gas any specified area is equivalent to effective occupation, so long as there is no other Power bombing and gassing over the same

piece of country.

Throughout an area considerably larger than Great Britain there are no Italians. Here and there are pockets of more or less stable Ethiopian government—at Gore, Maji, and elsewhere. This western part was always rather casually controlled by the central Government—it is useless to deny that the Gallas saw the worst side of Amharic rule. Yet the administration was rapidly improving, especially in the extreme south-west where Colonel Sandford was Governor. Perhaps it would be fair to say that while the Gallas looked to the Emperor as their inevitable ruler, they were thankful when the Government did not function too much. It is an attitude common enough in the East. Now that the Government is weak, life goes on much as usual. Returning travellers talk of villages who have not heard of the war. Trade is fairly brisk, and coffee has been coming down to Gambella at the unusually high rate of eighteen tons a day. Wolde Tadiq at Gore has a skeleton administration, collecting some local dues, but hampered by lack of funds. There is even a branch of the Bank of Ethiopia still active, though its head office has been evacuated. Ras Iram, with a few fighting men, is only one of several chiefs still under arms in the west.

Over all this hangs the sword. It is known that the Italians can ultimately destroy from the air any organised Government and make it difficult to collect and maintain an organised army above a certain size. Against small groups, operating without definite headquarters, the air control breaks down, especially in the rains. Europe is only allowed to hear about a few of the "unfortunate incidents" which are making life difficult for the occupying army, and which increase in number immediately the Italians leave their few strongly held posts or certain specified and protected routes. They can destroy the wasps' nests but not the wasps.

In all this the Englishman's position is miserable enough. On one point everyone is agreed. All over the Near East "our name is mud." In these parts there has never been any doubt about Italian intentions. Relations between British and Italian officials were friendly enough until last summer, and the latter made no secret about their preparations, or their engineering of "frontier incidents" as a preliminary to an attack. It was assumed that France and England had

come to some arrangement. The attitude of both countries, bestly, even after war had begun, suggested that the French in Jibuti, and ourselves in the Sudan expected and desired a speedy if partial conquest of Ethiopia. Our Foreign Office, which controls the Sudan, was playing a very tortuous game. It had one policy at home and at Geneva, another in Africa, and the discrepancies were painfully obvious to the whole of the Near East. We and the French now appear as dishonest bunglers, who did everything possible to prevent Ethiopia getting arms or credit, or even making terms with Italy on her own, but in the end are not able to dictate the settlement.

Having once put ourselves into a false position, every action we take, every comment we make, only seems to make us more futile and more ridiculous. The sanctimonious Mr Eden would appear to be rebuking the Emperor for leaving the country. Now there is undoubtedly much feeling amongst the remnants of the Ethiopian army against Haile Selassie and his advisers. The Negus is blamed for continuing to trouble about the League of Nations instead of making some sort of a peace on his own. The older chiefs hardly appreciate the impossibility of keeping organised forces in the field against an army with complete control of the air. But a British Foreign Minister is the last person in the world to criticise the Emperor, or the credentials of any alternative Government which may be in existence. For eight months the English gave the Ethiopian Government nothing more even if it had continued to function in a more formal manner after the fall of Addis Ababa. On the other hand, by doing so the Emperor would possibly have decreased the effectiveness of the Abyssinian resistance, and needlessly endangered a number of lives.

What should be our attitude towards the guerilla fighting which is now developing? The Ethiopian likes fighting in the rain, so that it may well die down in the fair weather and break out again in future years. At a House of Commons meeting last May, I found that members of all parties seemed determined on one point. Resistance to Italy would never be held by us to be rebellion. Within two months most of our press is accepting the Italian view that the men who cut the railway and ambush their flying men are "bandits." The obvious corollary that they can be suppressed by any means which the

Italians may choose is not of much practical importance. From the first the Italians observed no rules of war, and the Abyssinians very few. But there are other questions involved. Have Englishmen any right, either collectively or individually, to encourage further Ethiopian resistance? If so how can that help be given?

It should first of all be made clear to Wolde Tadiq, or any representative of the Emperor, that there is no hope of effective intervention by the League or by the British Government, and that no Italian atrocities will alter that fact. If, however, the Ethiopian wants to go on fighting, feeling perhaps that life under the Italians would not be worth living, then there would seem to be no reason why he should not get such assistance as an ordinary combatant has a right to expect. His Government should get such added prestige as may come from foreign recognition. He should be able to import arms, if he can pay for them, and raise credits privately. On this last point official opinion in the Sudan is strongly against allowing arms to pass through British territory. Mr Eden has adopted their view, but with the disingenuousness of the party politician he has justified it in England on totally false grounds. He has stated that the admission of arms would lead to a civil war, presumably between Amharas and Gallas. There is not the faintest justification for this, astute gloss on the official report, though it probably helped the Government round an awkward corner in the House of Commons.

Such pockets of Government as exist are Amharic and Galla mixed, but the *Togana*, as the old official class, naturally predominate. They are functioning amongst people mostly Galla, who are still armed, though only inefficiently and without much ammunition. There is no evidence of any civil war, or any likelihood of one in view of the Italian threat. Assistance in the way of arms and ammunition would lengthen the war, and might even make the Italian position untenable. It is utter hypocrisy to pretend that any other question is involved. Individually no Englishman has any right to tell the Ethiopian that he ought to go on fighting, unless he is prepared to fight himself; but given the fact that many are determined to go on, knowing that there is no hope of outside intervention, then I cannot see why they should not get such arms as they can purchase.

## MEMORIAL TO THE NINE THOUSAND

### Unveiling at National Park

Gaining dignity by its simplicity and impressiveness from the wild ruggedness of its setting, the ceremony of the unveiling of the Memorial to the 9000 frontiersmen who fell during the war was performed on Sunday, October 25th, 1936.

There is nothing ostentatious in the cairn that the men of the Legion in New Zealand have raised in grateful memory of their brethren. It is constructed of water-worn boulders, surmounted with a cross of white marble, while its inscription "In memory of the 9000 Frontiersmen who fell in the Great War 1914-1918," tells a heroic tale to passers by.

And passers-by there are plenty. For the Memorial is situated at the corner of the Tokoaonu and Tamamunui roads at the turn-off to the Chateau. It is a spot that thousands will pass; May they stop, and read and think.

From the Memorial stretches away New Zealand's National Park. One looks across miles of rugged broken country to snow-capped Tongariro and Ruapehu; over flat wastes of volcano-blasted desert to the south; and in the east of the glories of virgin bush. Truly a noble setting.

Of the hundred men who assembled at the cross roads that afternoon many had come over 200 miles and would travel another 200 miles that day. From Auckland, Wellington, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki—every nook and cranny of the North Island they came. Several spent two days in travelling; one came from the South Island; and the ceremony occupied 40 minutes.

The parade, which was under the command of Major W. Ricketts, D.C.M., marched to the flag-draped memorial. The ceremony opened with the singing of the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," which was followed by a brief address by Padre C. L. Dobbs, of Raetihi:

"Forasmuch as men at all times have made for themselves Signs and Emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold those laws and institutions which God's providence has called them to obey, we, following this natural and pious custom, are assembled before God to ask His

Blessing on this Memorial which is to represent to us our duty toward our Sovereign and our Country. Let us therefore pray Almighty God to grant that it may ever be held in memory of those who gave their lives in the cause of justice and righteousness, and that it will increase our faith and hope in Him Who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

All joined in the Lord's Prayer, the Padre continuing with special prayers.

The unveiling was performed by Pioneer Captain E. D'Esterre, of Auckland, who, with memories of many comrades fallen, spoke feelingly and earnestly. "We have gathered here to do honour to members of the Order who gave their lives in the Great War," he said. "From all the corners of this earth they came, but they were all of one tribe, so then it was a job of work that had to be performed and there was no thought of leaving it till to-morrow. That it was their duty was enough for them.

"When War clouds gathered on the horizon, frontiersmen were engaged in no war-like occupation. They were carrying on the work of their Empire, but they read the signs of the coming storm and began to stream out on the Four Great Trails, eager to answer the roll call when the Mother of Nations called to her sons. The tools of peace were laid aside for rifles, and in the twinkling of an eye the world saw the amazing spectacle of that host of Britons from overseas, racing to defend the Empire they were helping to build. The Legion fought in Gallipoli, Egypt, France, Flanders, Palestine, Africa and at Jutland. Wherever the tide of battle raged, the men who were proud to wear the badge of their Order, faced the conflict as Legionaries are accustomed to do. They had no thought of glory, nor was hatred in them, for in their lives and conduct was the inmost truth of the lines:—

"Endurance is the crowning quality

And patience all the passion of great hearts."

"Of that splendid band of our brothers in the Legion, no fewer than nine thousand came not home again.

It is to their undying memory that the New Zealand Command of the Legion has raised this memorial and, by that act, created a spiritual centre for the Legion in this Dominion for all time.

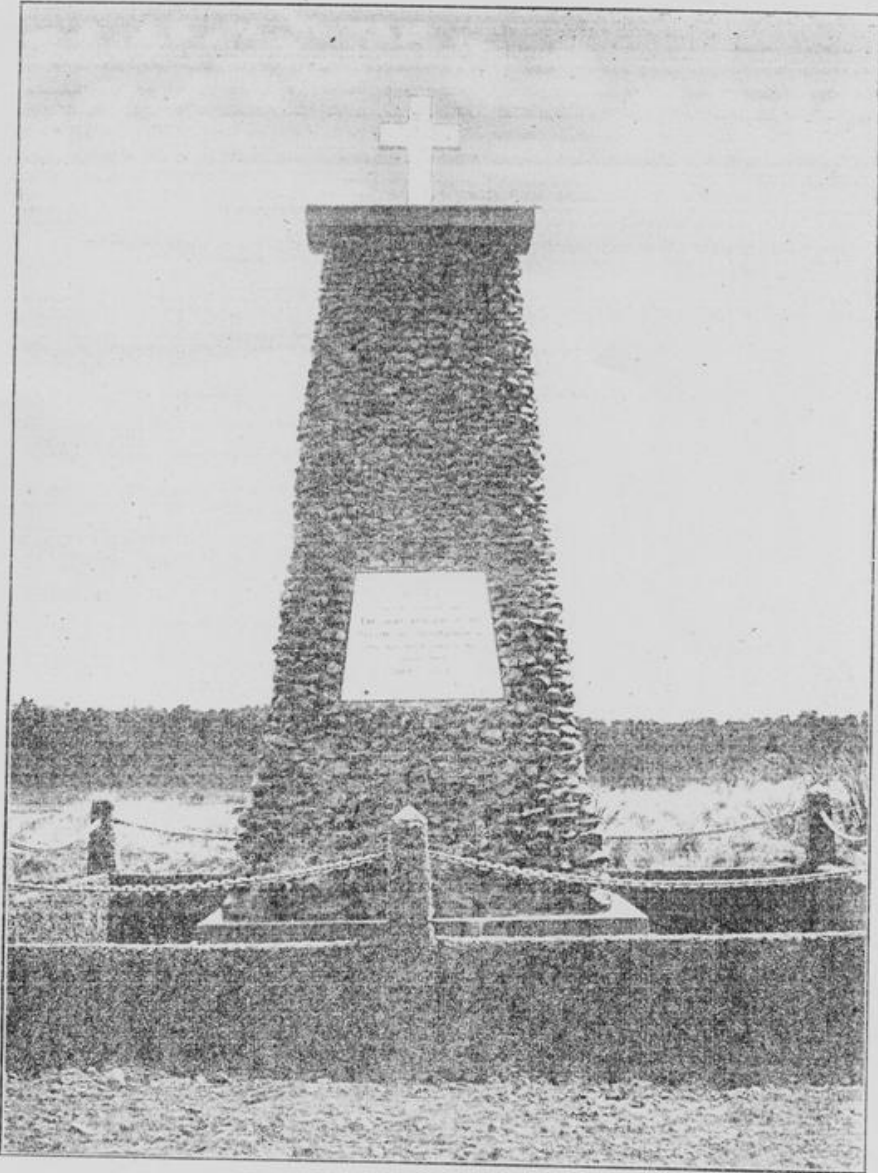
"While the Nine Thousand of the Frontiersmen who gave their lives are commemorated in the beautiful monuments on the battlefields and in the capitals of the Empire, nevertheless this Memorial stands out in the annals of the Legion. It is in the farthest outpost of the Empire; it stands in the last territory in New Zealand made safe by frontiersmen for civilisation to follow; it is at the meeting of the Four Ways—North, South, East and West—and it faces the great mountains that were given to the State by the noble Maori people as a National Park and a sign of the brotherhood of the two races. It is national in New Zealand and it is national in the whole Empire.

"The Nine Thousand! Let those among you who were fortunately too young to remember those anxious days, imagine the men of that deathless army drawn up, rank upon rank, here, around us. We older ones who knew so many of them as our comrades, like to feel that they are with us to-day as, once again, we convey to them our sense of the honour they conferred on the Legion by their supreme sacrifice, and the high lead they have given us for as long as reverence for the qualities that do become men, shall endure.

"Amongst the Nine Thousand whose memory we honour to-day were so very many of our own New Zealand comrades. They were our own relatives, friends, camp mates, fellows we knew, joyous laughing companions of many a happy Legion gathering. I feel they would be proud to know the Legion in the homeland they loved so well had raised a memorial, and that it was dedicated to all the frontiersmen, from all parts of the Empire, who fell in the War. The Legion recognises no boundaries within the Empire; all it knows is the frontiers and their outposts.

"Those amongst my hearers to whom the Great War is but a name, I would ask to pass on the message they have received this day, on in their turn to the Legionaries who come after them, so that this memorial may stand out in their minds as the symbol of all that is noble and selfless, of

*"Let Us Not Prove Unworthy"*



Memorial to the Nine Thousand, situated at the Cross Roads, National Park, New Zealand

the true spirit of comradeship and of duty fearlessly performed.

"It is a day of many memories to me. Those who were associated with me in the work of the Legion during the War years, will understand, for it is a day of very many memories for them also.

"It is also, indeed, a proud day, because the New Zealand Command, which I saw grow from infancy, has never faltered in its purpose to raise this monument which I suggested at a time when there seemed little hope of the idea being carried into effect. My comrades, I thank you from my heart, and I thank you in the name of the great dead whose memory you have honoured.

"Let this memorial, in its simple design, be ever a hallowed thing to the Legion in New Zealand. Let it symbolise the straight, true qualities that are characteristic of frontiersmen, a signpost pointing the way to simple duty and the rallying point from the Brotherhood of the Legion, that Brotherhood that was held so dear by the Nine Thousand who gave their lives for it. In the brotherhood you have with them, hold high the torch of the spirit of the Legion, clear your ranks, cast out any petty differences that may arise as unworthy of the noble Order to which you have the

honour to belong, and stand four square for the unity of the Legion and for the self-effacing unwritten laws of the Legion of the Frontier.

"My Brothers, into your reverent keeping I now commit this sacred trust, this material emblem of the spiritual memorial that is within all our hearts; in the name of the Legion,—the memorial to the Nine Thousand of our Dead—."

And as the flags dropped from the memorial the Last Post was sounded, the firing party saluted the dead, and the parade stood at attention for a solemn two minutes; then the Reveille.

The Commissioner, Col. C. Weston, K.C., D.S.O., V.D., was the next to speak. This was a proud day for the Legion, he said. It must also be a proud day for Captain D'Esterre. He had suggested the locality, which was adopted after a good deal of discussion; it must also be a proud day for the Commandant, Col. J. C. Findlater, who had seen to the erection of the monument. It was a day of pride for the Legion—pride and sorrow.

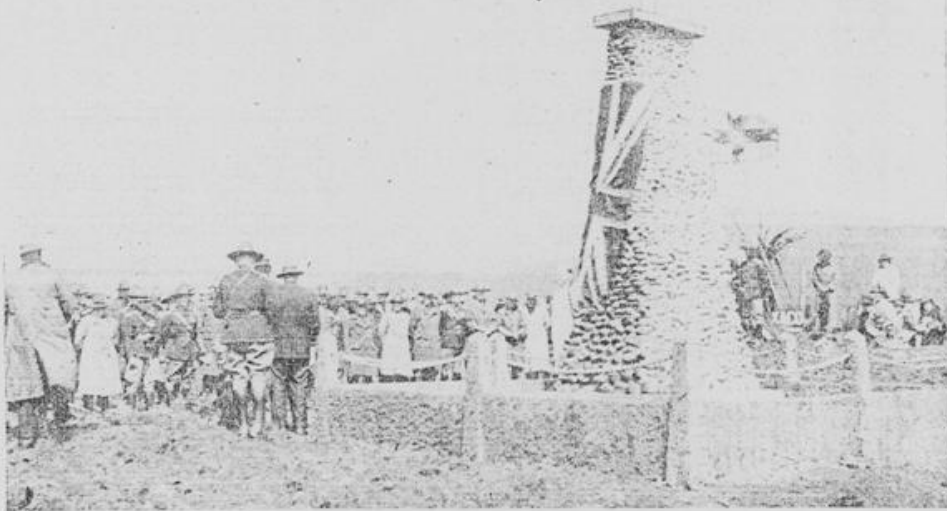
"If we could by some miracle, call back that 9000 in one unit, fully equipped and well mounted—almost a division in numbers—we would see a command the like of which the world

has never seen before," continued Col. Weston. "They would be ready to ride through Hell. If we combed the armies of the world we would not find a better stamp of man.

"Those men have left an imperishable tradition; but it is not our only tradition. It was Roger Poeseck's genius that conceived the name and the idea, it was his magnetism that made the frontiersmen follow him. But frontiersmen have existed ever since the British race has been a race. Every time England was invaded a few were added; every time England sent out an invading army more died. What a host of tradition English history could furnish.

"Some say that the spirit of adventure has gone," continued the speaker. "I say no. The present generation of young men may not like drilling; many a frontiersman of the past hated it. But when it comes to the pinch they will be there. It is an appalling risk not training them. We know what would happen to untrained troops. But the spirit is there among our young men—the spirit of the Legion.

"New Zealand contributed its share to the 9000 and while it is not right to pick out anyone from their midst I must refer to the late Major Teetle-



A view of the Memorial taken just prior to the commencement of the service. Auckland Weekly News Photo.



ton M.C., for next to Captain D'Esteire he was the leader of the Legion in New Zealand. When war was declared he led a body of fully equipped men from Poverty Bay to Trentham camp, ready for action.

"A great many people will pass this monument," said Colonel Weston in conclusion. "It will be here for generations. Perhaps, 400 years hence the people will speak a different language, their manners and customs will be different. But I hope they will take a message from the monument—that these men left their homes and families—all that was dear to them—to face death for the sake of what they thought was right."

Commandant J. C. Fiddlater spoke briefly stating: "I should like to pay my small tribute to-day firstly to the comrades who have travelled long distances to be present in such good numbers to do honour to our 9000 dead on this auspicious occasion. You have just heard from Captain D'Esteire and Colonel Weston the calibre of these comrades.

Consider the type of men they were: men of conscience, men with a sense of duty, able to distinguish right from wrong, men with an ethical standard who could be depended on to do the right. There is something magnificent about this. Men of conscience—men all the time. Men of honour, men who could say what they meant and meant what they said. Nothing timid, tawdry or soft about them. We know what a man stands for if he is a man of honour. Men of fidelity, faithful and steadfast. Distinguished by the virtues of faith, hope and charity and the cardinal virtues of justice and fortitude. They had no regard for their personal safety.

To-day we desire peace, but it is an inspired prediction and a fact of experience that there can be no peace in a world where nations are armed to the teeth.... There may be a semblance of peace, but even that is transient. Present day alliances are as uncertain as the wind and as unstable as the waves of the sea. I cannot help thinking that the emphasis is being changed from these great things of life to the miserable things associated with self-preservation and indifference to the structure of our national institutions. "Let the dead speak their message to-day and let the living talk heed."

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, following which the official wreaths were laid on the memorial.

## Roundabout

At the parade of the combined bands of Wellington on Labour Day the Frontiersmen's Band made a splendid impression.

The annual church parade of 1 Squadron (Wellington) takes place on Sunday, November 15, when members from Palmerston North, Hutt Valley and Masterton will participate.

If any member of the Legion has a book of trumpet calls, containing the cavalry reveille, that he doesn't want, or knows where the same can be obtained, will be please communicate with Sergeant, C. Cocksedge, Egmont Troop, Okato, Taranaki.

A novel social function was held at Auckland on the 4th November in the form of a dinner for members, their wives and Legion ladies. This dinner took place at the Royal Hotel and was given by members to the ladies, in appreciation of their valuable assistance at social functions during the past season and also for their sacrifices during the year in allowing their husbands to attend Legion meetings and duties, throughout the year. "A" Squadron husbands do not get home till midnight on Wednesdays (and not only Auckland husbands).

There were present sufficient to make up nine tables at the last C Squadron (Gisborne) card evening, and again Pm. V. Venables managed to get at the winning table.

An appreciation: Thanks are tendered to Lieut. Perry (G. Wanganui) for his arrangement, for feeding the Taranaki men at Wanganui on their way through to the unveiling ceremony.

Capt. Thomson, replying to the toast of kindred associations at the annual reunion of the South African War Veterans' Association at Wellington, said that the Legion of Frontiersmen had many things in common with the South African war veterans, as it was this band of old soldiers who laid the foundation stone of the Legion. As frontiersmen and loyal subjects of the Empire they were carrying on the ideals so admirably set down. The organisation he represented regarded the South African war veterans as the men who had done their duty and pulled their weight in the interests of the Empire.

The Invercargill secretary writes: It may be of interest to some of you to know that at the moment there is a movie short going the rounds, of the theatres showing an immense parade of a detachment of Frontiersmen in London being inspected by some "Red Hat," after which a march past was conducted. A number of our chaps were fortunate to view this and it certainly gave one a bit of a thrill, as it was a stirring sight.

At the unveiling on October 25, Capt. Palmer paid a graceful tribute to that fine old frontiersman, Bob Gordon. Capt. D'Esteire also read a letter from Miss Compton, who was the leader of the women's committee of the Legion that did such wonderful work during the war. Writing from Hastings, Miss Compton stated: "Ever since I read in the Frontiersman that the long-dreamed of memorial was an accomplished fact I have had visions of that gathering, and a very great longing to be present. Since that is impossible I should like you to believe that my spirit and my thoughts will be with you there. Because I remember how you planned and thought for your 'boys' during those strenuous years when it was my privilege to serve under you, it seems to me right and proper that you are to unveil that memorial. No one could be more fittingly chosen. If you have the opportunity, will you please convey to any old comrades who may be present, my sincere regards and best wishes, and my deep regret that I cannot be with you."

## New Members

- A (Auckland): On probation, Frank Cyril Hawes.  
 C (Gisborne): Pm, Thompson (late S.M. Wellington Regiment).  
 R (Dunedin): On probation: Pmen, H. A. Davidson and W. R. Gibson (No. 2 Troop); Pm, A. Larsson (Omakau); Pmen, J. Scott and J. C. McLauchlan, (No. 4 Catlins River Troop).  
 I Squadron (Wellington): Pmen, Herbert Sydney Whyte, Valentine F. M. Jones, John A. Tarleton, Archie M. Dockery, Charles D. Varnham.

## OVERSEAS NEWS.

We acknowledge receiving a copy of the "Rising Sun," sent by Lieut. E. J. Cantwell, Adelaide, containing 3 Australia Command notes; also the Frontier News (Canada).

## SQUADRON REPORTS

### A SQUADRON, AUCKLAND.

O.C.—Pioneer Capt. W. Palmer, M.C.

ADJUTANT.—Lieut. C. F. Stevenson.  
SECRETARY.—Lieut. G. B. Morton,  
C.P.O. Box 1093, Auckland.

I.L.Q.—Wandsworth Building Anzac Avenue, Auckland.

TROOPS.—4.

**SOCIALS:** The usual fortnightly dances have been held this month and continue to be well patronised by members and friends, despite the approach of summer weather. We are casting aside winter evening dress and uniforms and adopting summer flannels for summer comfort at these functions. The first "flannel" dance was held on 31st and proved to be very enjoyable. Dances for November will be held on the 14th and 28th.

**SHOOTING:** The miniature range has been kept busy during the month. The most important event being a match with a team from H.M.S. Achilles who cleaned us up after a close go. The Navy boys are getting pretty good and we are training them well for the next emergency, at least we will take the credit for it. This match was a jolly one and after the serious part of it, that is taking the licking, we entertained them to a little round table spread which was much enjoyed. We look forward to many more of these opportunities of trying conclusions with our Navy friends.

**DRILLS AND MEETINGS:** These are well attended; although the meetings are more popular than the drills. With the warmer evenings coming along the delinquents who are absent from drill will not be able to make the excuse that King's Wharf is too cold. In fact carrying out exercises in the cool sea breezes off the Waitemata should be an attraction; if it is not, then there will be nothing for it but "the mat" in the orderly room. At least we believe the active Adjutant and Squadron S.M. are discussing this possibility.

**LECTURE:** Anti-gas lectures are becoming a feature and we have had two this month, both very well attended. Our tutor is this important branch come over from the Navy and in a most efficient manner make to their classes most interesting explanations of anti-gas methods and treatment. Our thanks to Chief Petty

Officer Collings for his generosity in giving his valuable time and services to us so spontaneously.

**THE MEMORIAL TO THE "9000."** No doubt the event of the unveiling of this wonderful Memorial at Tongariro National Park on the 26th October will receive much attention in this issue of "The Frontiersman." We feel we would like to add our little contribution if you will permit us the space. From the time we received our first advice "A" Squadron sought ways and means of being represented and after much negotiation and preparation we found it possible to secure a touring bus and a party of 20 members to make the journey. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be present will never forget the inspiring ceremony and the reunion of old comrades and the meeting of new comrades representing so many units.

We left Auckland at 2.15 p.m. on the Saturday, 24th October, in what has become usual Auckland week-end weather, that is, pouring rain. Our party included the original organiser of the Legion in New Zealand; Pioneer Capt. D'Esterre; also Pioneer Reg. Pike. Our party was in charge of our O.C., Pioneer-Capt. W. Palmer M.C. We arrived at Te Kuiti about 8 p.m. after a good trip without mishap. Capt. Wilson and Lieut. Deeds with members of "O" Squadron were awaiting our arrival and had very kindly arranged our accommodation—feather beds for the oldest soldiers and shake-downs on "O" Squadron room floor for those emulating soldiers. We find it difficult to express in words the wonderful hospitality and reception extended to us by those members of "O" Squadron who at such short notice did everything possible to make us welcome and comfortable. The reception given by Sgt. Leathers and Mrs Leathers was splendid and will remain with us a very happy memory of meeting brother Frontiersmen in another place. We will never forget the good comestibles provided for our supper. Those asparagus rolls and pickled onions are still being talked of by us.

After this sumptuous repast "A" Squadron representatives conveyed fraternal greetings and thanks to "O" Squadron and to the host and hostess, Sgt. and Mrs Leathers which was em-

phasised with musical honours. From the speeches and promises made it is evident that we will have to prepare for a stream of inter-squadron visits. We certainly hope these will eventuate to perpetuate the Legion brotherhood so freely demonstrated at this gathering. After a very restful night we continued our journey at 7 a.m. Sunday morning in delightful mild weather. Stopped at Taumarunui for morning tea and on to National Park, arriving there at 12.30 in time to locate at a rest house an assembly of Legionaries representing many units. Here old friends once again after many years renewed their acquaintances and it was an education to see some of those meetings.

We know that the ceremony of the unveiling will be more ably described by some gifted pen in this issue, but we wish to record our impression of this gathering as something which will forever live in our memories. The simplicity of the service and the addresses of the original members and our leaders were an inspiration to the younger members and we feel that the dedication of the Memorial symbolised the handing on of the torch by those whom it commemorates. After fond farewell, we turned for home with some pang of regret at not being able to spend longer with old and new found friends. Travelling on schedule we arrived back at Te Kuiti and assembled in the appointed restaurant for a long looked for meal of grilled steak sausages and eggs. While thus regaling ourselves we were invaded by three very "wild and woolly" gentlemen who claimed to be the whole self-contained Awakino Troop with their veteran George Thomas who said he was official umbrella-holder. They also introduced their official photographer who did not have a plate that recorded anything. After identification was established we permitted them to eat with us, although we kept our hands on our hip pockets the whole time. In our billets old George regaled us with stories of the good old days and his experiences of camping with "L" Squadron. We believed him until his comrades blew in and told us about his old mate and little "dorg." Well Mr Editor this is where we bade farewell to our Te Kuiti and Awakino friends and early next morning we headed for home and "civilisation." But we are going back some day! You can believe that.

Many thanks "O" Squadron and fraternal greetings to all Frontiersmen.

### C. SQUADRON, GISBORNE.

O.C.—Capt. A. Steele.  
 ADJUTANT.—Lieut. H. B. Green, 4  
 Peel Street, Gisborne.  
 SECRETARY.—Fm. P. Venables, 26  
 Muir street, Gisborne.  
 H.Q.—Ormond Road.

A PARADE of C Squadron was held in the Drill Hall, Capt. Steele presiding and 17 members being present. Among the visitors was Capt. P. Waipen, of H.Q. staff.

A letter was received from the Thirty Thousand Club asking for two members of the Legion to be nominated as members of their club.

The matter of increased subs was fully discussed and concluded with a proposal put forward by Fm. Maude that C Squadron agree to pay the increase, and that in the meantime ways and means be explored of meeting the increased expense to H.Q.

Fm. L. Blake presented Lieut. A. White (troop leader) with a splendid new standard (L.O.F. colours) all ranks standing to attention during the ceremony. Thanks were conveyed to Fm. Blake for his splendid gift.

It was suggested by S. M. Morris that the Rifle Club be officially opened on November 14. The social committee decided to provide a small trophy for the opening shoot. One of the big hearts of the Squadron, Fm. F. McBreen, donated all the cash that had been collected on previous visits to the Pehiri range.

It had been the custom of Fm. McBreen to provide a lorry for transport at a nominal charge per head. This had been put aside by Fm. McBreen and donated to the Squadron.

### G. SQUADRON, WANGANUI.

O.C.—Capt. N. Annabell.  
 ADJUTANT: Lieut. W. Little, No. 2  
 Line, Wanganui.  
 H.Q.—Gayton Street, Wanganui.  
 Troops—1.

During the month we have been busy again with m.d. drill under S.M. C. Bell and signalling under the troop leader, Lieut. E. C. J. Perry, both being put through in proper sergeant-major style.

A feature of the last troop meeting was a very interesting lecture on the machine gun and Lewis gun by an expert, guns being used for demonstration purposes. There was a good muster and all were deeply interested in the address, the lecturer pulling the guns to pieces and thoroughly

explaining every part. Light refreshment was served, and the evening was voted one of the best yet.

On Sunday, October 25, a party of six went through to National Park for the unveiling. Leaving Wanganui at 12.15 p.m. they boiled the billy at Raetihi, where the padre, Rev. Dobbs was picked up. At the Memorial all were pleased to see such a large muster of frontiersmen and friends. The ceremony itself was very impressive, and surely no better position for such a monument could be found. We were greatly impressed by the fine speeches made by the Commandant, Capt. D'Esteve and Col. Weston. By the number of cameras in action we are hoping to see some good snaps in the *Frontiersman*.

### H. SQUADRON, HASTINGS.

O.C.—Capt. W. C. Taylor.  
 ADJUTANT.—Lieut. F. H. Pickering, 120 Marine Parade, Napier.  
 H.Q.—Hastings: Russell Street,  
 Napier; Artillery Barracks, Kennedy Street.  
 Troops—2.

These notes are loaned to all and sundry and to let you know that H Squadron is still on the map and functioning like the navy "blently and efficiently."

At the request of the Squadron, I am asked to convey our sincere congratulations to the publishers of the *Frontiersman* for their splendid results in compiling such a fine journal. We trust that all units and squadrons who have not yet come to light with their subscriptions, will endeavour to do so without further delay and so assist the publishers in their great work.

Parades held during October have not been quite as successful as the previous months. This is not due to want of keenness on the part of members, but lack of drilling accommodation for the headquarters troop in Hastings. Capt. Taylor has now cleared this hurdle (although a bit of a heavy weight, he can still show a clean pair of heels) and the Squadron should be on the correct leg for the next report.

The Squadron quarterly meeting was held on October 19th, in the artillery barracks, Napier. This meeting proved to the company present that all the best orators are not in Parliament. We have a good few in Hawke's Bay. However, under the direction of the umpire, Capt. W. C. Taylor, we disposed of a volume of

business without crossing swords.

In addition to the Squadron quarterly meeting, the usual supper and informal talks were held after weekly drill parades. This is the time when the Q.M.S. and his assistant are in their proper possies. Their ambition apparently is to make a squadron of heavyweights.

Sunday, October 25th, saw, in the early hours of the morning, two cars pull out from Napier. Napier and Hastings troop and members were on their way to National Park for the unveiling ceremony in the "park." After three or four stops on the way—but only to boil the billy—we all arrived safely at the rendezvous at mid-day. It was a pleasure to meet old friends again. I want to make a special appeal at this particular moment. Will those members who have photographs to spare of the Memorial, or of groups pertaining to the memorial, please forward to the Adj. of "H" Squadron. We are not asking for "summat for noat" and will willingly pay for them.

After parade was dismissed, Napier Troop members stayed the return trip, and although running into very thick weather this side of Taupo, we arrived safely in our home town, tired but happy, at 11.30 p.m.—200 miles for the day.

Hastings Troop members made the return trip the day after. It is said that a remount depot is being established between Taupo and Taranaki. Whether this is due the Squadron Q.M.S. carrying out his duties too efficiently or to actual deeds of valour carried out on the open plains remains to be seen, but we intend to give you full details of their doings in December issue.

### I. SQUADRON, WELLINGTON.

O.C.—Capt. T. J. I. Thomson.  
 ADJUTANT.—Lieut. A. A. Duncan.  
 SECRETARY.—Fm. Edmund Drury,  
 P.O. Box 314, G.P.O., Wellington.  
 H.Q.—12 Victoria Street, Wellington (P.O. Box 4228).  
 Troops—4.

The Squadron meeting with Capt. T. J. I. Thomson in the chair and the band in attendance was indeed a bright idea of the O.C.'s.

Members of I Squadron with others are as keenly interested as ever in the New Zealand Defense League and its activities. They are more than interested—they are extremely useful.

The division of the day into periods for labour, rest, and recreation is anything but ideal; there should be some time given to thought by the individual—so many allow others to think for them, even in their own private affairs. Let each frontiersman think hard just now. That we should write with restraint, or the appearance of restraint, may perhaps be regretted by some readers, but there are times when with a goal in view, circumstances and policy may combine to compel discretion. Where an issue is of such vital importance as defence, it is rather interesting (to put it mildly) to watch the reaction of the general body of the community to its contacts with hard facts relating to New Zealand and world happenings.

New Zealand may suddenly become a land fit only for heroes to live in. Many people in New Zealand expect too much for too little. Many hope for the best and deserve the worst—etc., etc. It goes without saying that every Frontiersman who joins the Defence League must move with circumspection, and should he give utterance to his views do so (if in public) with a great discretion. That there is lacking that support from the public one might expect cannot be denied.

That there is much thin ice about with thick mud beneath all too easily stirred up, is quite evident, so it behooves us to move forward on tip toe, to pick our steps, and as it were, trim our sails to each favouring breeze.

Facts are certainly being distorted as to the actual aims of the Defence League and citizens throughout the country simply will not believe that it is anything but against the Government, and that force will be applied to compel obediences to its wishes when it is strong enough. Unpopularity may suddenly be shown proving to the hilt that it is not a popular and spontaneous movement. That there is a strong disposition about to believe that a Fascist organisation may suddenly appear in New Zealand, cannot be denied. The Legion of Frontiersmen supports law and order and a democratic form of government under our King; and it must be clearly understood that it is non-political, but is out to assist the Government of the day in the defence policy which it brings down for the benefit of New Zealand and the whole Empire. In the meantime—Patience, comrades, patience.

#### K. SQUADRON, MASTERTON.

O.C.—Lieut. E. J. Wright.  
SECRETARY.—S. Q. M. S. W. D.  
Ansell, 7 Rimu Street, Lansdowne,  
Masterton.  
H.Q.—Jackson Street, Masterton,  
(Phone 1994).  
Troops.—1.

It is with a certain amount of pride that we have to report holding our first fortnightly meeting in a room of our own. This room has been allotted us by one of our keen members, Em. Robt. Russell, who supplied free of charge all necessary material to build the room, and not being satisfied with that, laid lino on the floor. This room we now look upon as our own, and it has been given to the squadron free of any expense for use as long as we wish it.

During the past month, rifle shooting has taken place with the service rifle, 22 barrel, and some good targets have been returned.

Lectures are given after every business meeting, so that members attending a meeting always go away having learnt something of what the other fellow knows.

It has come to the secretary's knowledge that quite a few members of the Legion visit Masterton in the course of their business. We would like the pleasure of seeing something more of these chaps. Ring some of us up, or better still, come and have lunch; we do eat sometimes in Lee Waitarapa, although we don't drink.

K Squadron sent one delegate to the National Park on the occasion of the unveiling of the Memorial of the 9000.

#### L. SQUADRON, NEW PLYMOUTH.

O.C.—Capt. T. L. Brown.  
ADJUTANT.—Lieut. E. S. Beldger,  
C/o. Auto Parts Ltd., New Ply-  
mouth.  
H.Q.—Defence Office (Deft Hall).  
Troops.—5.

Here we are again with the big event in the Legion calendar successfully completed. Unfortunately not many of us were able to be at National Park, but Egmont Troop was well represented and Awakino unit were there in a body as usual. Congratulations to Sgt. A. J. L. May of the latter unit on his well deserved promotion.

Last monthly meeting was the annual meeting for both town troops, and quite a satisfactory financial report was presented in both cases.

Lieutenants Andrews and Norton were both re-elected and we hope to see them keep their boys up to the mark for the coming year.

Some time ago Lieut. Andrews of Paritutu Troop was instrumental in procuring a first-class rifle range for the Squadron, but it has not been possible to use this as often as wanted on account of having to depend on loaned rifles. However, Lieut. Andrews suggested some time ago that we should raise money and buy some of our own. A small committee was appointed and have now presented their report. We find that they have been doing a lot of good work behind the scenes and have arrangements well in hand for running an Art Union, tickets to be procurable very soon. There is no doubt this scheme will be well supported by members and we hope to see all records broken in ticket sales. Outside squadrons wanting any, please apply to the adjutant, and remember tickets, only 3d each and first prize worth having.

Well that's about all to report this month except that this morning's mail brought an invitation to the opening of S Squadron's new club rooms. Knowing Waverley's traditional hospitality, I guess we'll be going.

EGMONT TROOP: Five members of the troop made the trip to National Park, thanks to Em. E. B. Corbett, who offered his car. Everyone enjoyed the trip immensely; we went via Wangamui and came back via Tauramunui, 391 miles in all. We were pleased to be able to meet legionaries from other Squadrons, as there are very few chances to do this. We were also very glad to have an all-too-short glimpse of our old comrade, Reg. Pike. From what we have heard since it seems that a certain sergeant's efforts to play the rouse at 4.30 a.m. were not fully appreciated by a local J.P. (who is incidentally a member of the troop).

A public meeting convened by the troop was held to discuss ways and means of revising the local troop of the Q.A.M.R., about 15 local residents being present, also Capt. Harford and Lieut. Andrews, of the Q.A.M.R., Major Fairbrother of the Taranaki Regiment, and Staff Sergeant Major Bell. After a general discussion it was decided that all present be formed into a Volunteer Association, to help in every way possible. Lieut. Hickford was subsequently elected president of the Association.

### M. SQUADRON, ELTHAM.

O.C.—Capt. J. T. Scott.  
 ADJUTANT.—Pioneer Lieut. R. B. Poord, Stanners street, Eltham.  
 H.Q.—Eltham.

A progressive crib evening was arranged by Eltham Troop during the month. Weather conditions were far from perfect and the attendance was not up to expectations. However, from a social standpoint the gathering left nothing to be desired, and many requests were received for a repeat performance.

A public lecture was given by Commandant Finlayson on the 8th Inst., in the Eltham Troop's Club rooms. With a number of counter-attractions, the attendance, while good, was not as big as the merits of the lecture warranted. It was very pleasing to see a number of members' wives and other ladies present, and it is quite safe to say that their ideas that a lecture on "World Affairs" would be a dry-as-dust affair were properly dispelled. The Commandant spoke most entertainingly for over an hour (when he had to conclude owing to his throat troubling him) leaving his audience eager for more.

A pleasant evening was spent on the miniature range on the 22nd, when a practice shoot was held along with members of the Eltham Volunteer Platoon. Conditions were somewhat strange, and no starting scores were registered, but the Legion kept its end up.

At the conclusion of the shoot members fell in for drill and were put through the hoop by the S.M. Thanks are due to Lieut. E. Morton, of the Eltham Platoon, for assistance in arranging the evening.

Those members of M Squadron who made the journey to National Park for the unveiling of the Memorial sum up their opinion of the trip in the one word, "wonderful." Leaving Eltham at 6 a.m., and picking up passengers at Hawera and Patea, good time was made to Waunganui, when a stop was made for breakfast. The journey was made via the Parapara road, where the big bus took some handling and thrill, were provided for some of the passengers, whose hair stood at attention on one or two occasions. The wonderful bush scenery, especially in the vicinity of the Mokekoke viaduct, provoked exclamations of admiration from those who had not been over the road previously.

Immediately after the ceremony a start was made on the return jour-

ney. After a stop at Waunganui for tea, a non-stop run was made to Waverley, where a short halt was called, and the terminus, Eltham, was reached at midnight. No one was sorry to leave the bus; 14 or 15 out of the 18 hours occupied on the journey were spent in the bus, and one could be excused for feeling tired. There were no frayed tempers, and the trip has served still further to cement the bonds of comradeship. A special word of praise is due to the bus driver for the excellent manner in which he handled the vehicle on a tickly and dangerous road.

Members of Eltham Troop attended a volunteer parade when anti-gas instruction was given. Tear-gas was released in a bell tent, but wearing the new type respiration, not the slightest suggestion of ill-effect was noticed. It certainly gave one complete confidence in the effectiveness of the masks.

Congratulations to Frontiersman E. R. Coad on the arrival of a daughter.

### N. SQUADRON, PALMERSTON NORTH.

O.C.—Capt. J. E. M. Mewett, O.B.E., M.C.  
 ADJUTANT—Lieut. J. L. C. Morton, M.C., 133 Featherston street, Palmerston North.  
 H.Q.—Baughitiki street, Palmerston North.  
 Troops—5.

The outstanding event in October was the quarterly meeting, which coincided with the annual birthday gathering of the Dannevirke troop. The O.C. presided over a good muster of all troops.

The business of the meeting was pushed 'through the window' in good style, after which all settled down to an enjoyable social gathering. Following the Loyal Toast the O.C. proposed "The 9000," which was honoured with the usual ceremonial. Fin. Donaldson singing the Requiem. Other toasts honoured were No. 2 Troop (Dannevirke) proposed by Lieut. Clark and responded to by Lieut. Dale; kindred associations and visitors, proposed by Fin. M. Smith and the Press, proposed by Fin. Bencie and responded to by the New Zealand Frontiersman. Items were given by Fin. Donaldson, who also led a community sing. Frontiersmen Te Tau and Pedler and Sergeant Stanley—altogether a memorable evening.

Eighteen members of the squadron

were present at National Park, the trip being made by private cars. The journey, of some 300 miles, was enjoyed by all, while the impressive simplicity and dignity of the service will leave a lasting impression.

**CITY TROOP:** The purchase of a piano, made possible by a timely loan, has added greatly to the amenities of the club room, while the Q.M. has gathered a full complement of mess gear and a cupboard in which to stow it, making the room a place to be a little more proud of than some of us seem to realize.

**WHARITI TROOP:** A well-attended meeting was held on October 25th, when instruction in signalling was given by Fin. F. C. Short. Every member possesses a well-made signalling flag, for which thanks are due to Mr. Short. A feature of the November meeting was a lecture by Fin. A. K. Greves on "gas in warfare 1915-1918."

**WOODVILLE TROOP:** The November meeting was particularly well attended, practically all members being new in uniform. A most interesting and instructive lecture on artillery work was given by the troop leader, Lieut. A. Ramsden.

### O. SQUADRON, TE KUITI.

O.C.—Capt. J. R. Wilson.  
 ADJUTANT—Lieut. J. I. K. Dods, M.M., Lawrence street Te Kuiti.  
 H.Q.—Bora street, Te Kuiti.

The even of the month was the visit of "A" Squadron who arrived by special bus twenty strong under Capt. W. Palmer M.C., accompanied by Pioneer Capt. E. D'Esteve, on their journey to the unveiling of the Memorial. Owing to counter attractions our members did not roll up in force, and so it was left to the few old faithfuls to entertain the visitors, who were met on arrival by Capt. J. R. Wilson and welcomed to the King Country. Staying here for two nights will no doubt have given the guests from the city an insight into the conditions under which country squadrons have to work. Considering the manner in which we were entertained in Auckland we were rather disappointed with our show. However all went well and no doubt resulted in a warmer friendship being brought about between "A" and "O." May their shadow never grow less. It must have been a proud moment for Pioneer Capt. D'Esteve to have his

wish come true—the establishment of a King Country squadron, and to meet some of the boys, from the "cuppa tea" squadron, no complaint! Unfortunately the official umbrella holder to N.Z.H.Q. was unable to find the rendezvous, or we would have had a few more visitors from out back. Our members who accompanied "A" Squadron to National Park thoroughly enjoyed the trip, especially when we met that car with the representatives of Awakino Troop "L" Squadron.

On Labour Day, 20th October, a party under Sergeant Major H. C. Evans assisted in controlling the traffic, etc. at the auto pageant held here for the purpose of opening the new dome belonging to the Te Kuiti Aero Club.

#### Q. SQUADRON, NELSON.

O.C.—Capt. D. Hughes.  
 ADJUTANT.—Lieut. G. Thomas,  
 Wellington street, Nelson.  
 H.Q.—Nelson.  
 Troops.—3.

DOVEDALE TROOP: fired the return match with the City Troop on 13th inst.; again they won, but by a very small margin. The White Hope of City Troop, Sergeant Simmonds, was not up to his usual form. He didn't blame the rifle, he didn't blame the light or range, but the real cause he certainly let every one know in no uncertain terms.

A Squadron meeting was held at Motueka on 16th inst. and a record attendance was present. Like the previous instalment, some of us found the way home "was long and not too odd." Q Squadron has discovered hidden talent. Sergeant Chamberlain plays the mouth organ remarkably well. Lieut. West marshalled his Troop back to Nelson in good order, no one was posted missing, and there were no casualties.

Q Squadron regrets very much not being represented at the unveiling of the "Memorial to the 2000." The parade held at Motueka, on the day was a record, numbering about 50. The wreath was a beauty and was placed on the War Memorial at the same time as the unveiling. After the ceremony afternoon tea was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Mrs D. Hughes, wife of Capt. Hughes, Mrs J. Brough, wife of Fur. Brough and Mrs Curry were visitors.

#### R. SQUADRON, DUNEDIN.

O.C.—Capt. G. R. Mitchell, D.S.O.,  
 V.D.  
 ADJUTANT.—Lieut. Alex. Klee, 49  
 Bowen street, St. Kilda, Dunedin  
 S 2.  
 H.Q.—Moray Place North, Dunedin.  
 Troops.—6.

On 2nd September the city troop paraded at the Drill Hall for the usual drill.

On the 9th the syllabus provided for a mock court martial, but owing to the unavoidable absence of some of the Staff Officers who had kindly promised to assist, this had to be postponed to a later date. The social committee jumped in with all its feet and commandeered the evening for a Social, which turned out a great success, as we consider it. We don't get huge attendances, but we do have a good time.

The 16th saw our regular monthly meeting when routine business occupied the evening.

On the 23rd, we attended at the Central Fire Station where Deputy Superintendent Lakkaw gave an intensely interesting talk on fire, caused by explosives, and we came away with much to ponder on.

The 30th saw us again at the Drill Hall where the two city troops are now on their toes for the inter-troop competition which comes off next week. There is a fine rivalry between the Troops. No. 1 has carried off the shootings, but No. 2 consider, it has a mortgage on the drill.

On Labour Day five of our members did duty for the St. John Ambulance Brigade at the Labour Day picnic at Mosgiel, and acquitted themselves well.

Next month we commence getting ready for our annual re-union in December, when we hope to see a good representation from Invercargill to Christchurch and of course including our genial friend Capt. Percy Warren.

Owing to the distance the Squadron was unable to be represented at the unveiling and we sent along a message. As many of our members were out of town for the week-end we decided to hold the Church Parade on the occasion of the annual reunion in December.

CATLINS RIVER TROOP: No report has been received this month from this Troop, but the forwarding of two new enrolments, shows that something is doing.

Now that the fine weather has com-

menced (Yes, we do get fine weather in Dunedin), we are hoping to get going on the open range for rifle practice and probably will be sending in a score sheet for the Cup.

Many thanks, Mr Editor, for the hint re golf balls. Our members are too hard up to play but we are always after ways and means of raising foot and your hint may be valuable. A detail will be appointed to attend at the links each week.

Last month our O.C. issued an order for members to rendezvous at a point announced as Square 4, 4.8, on the map of the City. It is pleasing to note that though some were half an hour late in arriving at the destination, no one fell by the wayside. Capt. Mitchell set us an interesting problem to work out in building a ford over the stream, and it was noteworthy that the number of men required in the various solutions ranged from 12 (these were sure super-navies) to 50.

INVERCARGILL TROOP: O.C. Lieut. H.C. McKenzie M.C.; Secretary Fur. G. G. Dunn, 73 Deveron Street, Invercargill. H.Q., Drill Hall, Invercargill.

Well, chaps, I must apologise for the scantiness of this report this month, as to be perfectly candid, I don't think I am too popular in the Editorial room, and I think I had better lay off a while, to let things blow over. As it is, I will be two days late and I am expecting a collect wire any minute. In any case, we certainly have to hand it to these lads for the job they are making of the magazine, and it seems as if it gets better and better. We are all looking forward to the near future when we can read the extracts from contemporaries in other lands.

We have been battling away this last month, and though attendances at our meetings have not been what could be called good, yet we have covered a lot of ground work in our First Aid course. All our members who attend are very keen on this work and I know that once the others recognise the necessity to every Frontiersman that this knowledge is, then they also will experience the thrill that comes to one when one has the knowledge that enables him to aid an injured pal.

We must place on record the great help that the local chaps of the St. John Ambulance Corps have been to us. They have made it possible for

us to learn the rudiments of their great service by lending us every assistance in a practical way. Still it is just what we expect from them, knowing their record as we do.

I have been asked by various members of our Troop to mention in this report how welcome any visiting frontiersmen would be to us. So if any of you northern lads are arranging a summer holiday to be spent in the sunny south, do not forget to ring the O.C., or the secretary, whose numbers are listed in the directory, and you will be assured of a great time. We will even introduce you to our great secret called "The Red Terror," and believe me that is some concession.

#### S. SQUADRON, WAVERLEY.

O.C.—Capt. H. Boyer.

H.Q.—Waverley.

Troops.—1 and section at Patea.

Early this month the Squadron held a social to inaugurate the opening of their fine new club room, which is built on the site of a famous old Maori redoubt, rich in history and tradition. All H.Q. staff were present, also representatives from A. N. M and L Squadrons. The gathering numbered 40 (including four Pioneers) and the function was a most successful and enjoyable one. A toast list was enthusiastically honoured.

#### ASHBURTON TROOP.

(Unattached).

O.C.—Lieut. E. M. Galites.

SECRETARY.—Fm. W. Donald,  
Windmore, Ashburton.

As we are only a small body, 15 all told, each member is full of enthusiasm, so much so, that we are receiving frequently enquiries as to the objects and benefits of the Legion. From now on until next February our monthly meetings, which are held on the 1st Thursday of every month, will be attended by an officer of the Ambulance Brigade with the object of forming a First Aid class in February. This the Troop think is a wise decision, as we hope to increase our membership thereby. The Superintendent of the Brigade takes a great interest in our troop, and generally speaking we are looking forward to a more successful year.

Recently Dr. Rich, of Christchurch, gave a lecture to the troop and friends on preventive measures to be

adopted in the event of probable or possible gas attacks. The lecture was most interesting, and all ranks appreciated it very much.

Our foundation members are slowly leaving the district and so far have requested their names to be left on the Ashburton roll. Fm. L. Hadley, who has held a position with the Ashburton County Council has accepted a temporary position with the Dunedin Tramway system. F. G. Anderson our foundation treasurer, has purchased a farm at Oxford, North Canterbury, but as there exists no unit there he has requested that he remain on our strength.

Owing to the local A. and P. Show and the Royal Show in Christchurch the following week, we decided to forego our November meeting. Our next meeting will therefore be held on Thursday, 3rd December, when we are having members of the local Ambulance Corps present to discuss and adopt procedure in forming the Ambulance class in February. As usual every Christmas vacation takes place from our December meeting until our February meeting. I regret that two of our members have been laid aside and are at the moment inmates of the County Hospital. Fm. Robinson has undergone an operation while Fm. Cameron is suffering from an attack of pneumonia. Both comrades are progressing favourably now, and hope is expressed among members of a speedy recovery for both.

Fm. Donald is going to Christchurch next week to confer with members of the Christchurch troop, with a view to obtaining moral assistance from them, so that we can in future show a greater amount of progress than in the past. Several suggestions have been made, so it is hoped his visit will result in assisting progress.

#### HUTT VALLEY TROOP

(Unattached).

O.C.—Lieut. A. Henderson.

Secy.—Cpl. N. H. Barrett, 110 Williams Street, Petone.

The usual monthly meeting was held on 28th October, a good attendance of members being present. A friendly shoot took place on the 2nd November with "C" Company, Wellington Regiment.

Lieut. A. Henderson and his "baby" represented the troop at the unveiling of the memorial at National Park. May I congratulate H.Q. on the service; a visitor told me that it was most impressive, the singing of

the hymn by 100 men without music being very touching. I appeal to all frontiersmen when passing the Memorial to stop and see that the weeds and grass are cleaned from inside the fence; further I would suggest that a fund be started to raise enough money to have the base concreted. Hutt Valley will start this fund if it meets with the approval of other Squadrons.

This troop is giving its support to the New Zealand Defence League in the Hutt Valley.

#### CHRISTCHURCH TROOP.

O.C.—Capt. W. Kibber.

ADJUTANT.—Lieut. J. Russell.

SECRETARY.—Fm. A. Beamingham, 452 Armagh Street, Christchurch.

H.Q.—Mayors Buildings, Worcester Street.

The report from Christchurch is in general terms, and is confined principally to social activities.

#### Shot at Dawn

The Sergeant of the firing squad at the Memorial who put his shells on the ground instead of in the breach.

A Squadron will be shooting at dawn on the first fine morning Auckland can provide. (This year!)

R Squadron (Dunedin) is frequently made the butt for the jokes of other squadrons. But does this letter sound Scotch? "R Squadron decided last meeting to waive any claim for subs already paid, so if H.Q. sends you along any you can either keep them or refund the money to H.Q." "Gee" (says our secretary) "I wish a little more would do this."

It has just come to our knowledge that one of the members of Awakino unit (L. New Plymouth) has had a great honour bestowed on him. The gentleman in question is Fm. George Thomas O.C.B. He it was who braved the elements at National Park to hold an umbrella over the padre, or at least that's the tale we heard, hence the order of Official Umbrella Bearer; long may his parachute stay open. Somebody said they overheard the Commandant remark that "he wished he had some ——— to hold a tent over him." Incidentally the honoured one is now practising opening his broly by numbers and heaven help any padre that comes within his reach!

The latest O Squadron (Te Kuiti) now style themselves the "cuppa tea" squadron.

Self-righteousness, carried to the extreme: The action of M (Eltham) in affixing an arm hilly to the radiator cap of their bus, and styling themselves "The Purity League."

The secretary of H Squadron (Napier) started off his notes this month with the naive admission: "H Squadron is still on the mat." Our fervent hope is that it was a typist's error.

Taranaki-ite, are certainly resourceful. One man, in a hurry to get away to National Park, lost a spur. Dug an old one out of the coalshed but had to do his polishing on the grindstone and emery wheel.

At an N Squadron smoko a newly-fledged stripe-shy corporal carried these ornaments in his breeches pocket. The O.C. in calling on him for a song, referred to him as "frontiersman," whereupon the jack immediately corrected him: "Corporal S—, sir!" The skipper was quick on the uptake, and promptly ficked him off for not being properly dressed.

### Personal

Owing to duties taking him to other parts of the North Island, Cpl. S. H. Newson (H. Hastings) has been granted extended leave.

Fm. C. B. Neilson, of the Napier troop, is now an engineer on board ship and is on his way to the Old Country.

We regret to record that Fm. Roy Fisher (A. Auckland) has been in hospital seriously ill, but his comrades are pleased to hear that he is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Congratulations to Fm. Hansen (N. Manawatu) and Mrs Hansen on the birth of a daughter.

Recent visitors to I Squadron (Wellington) included Pioneer R. B. Flood, Frontiersmen R. Creagh, J. C. Tipping (Auckland) and C. N. Vickeridge.

Fm. J. Edmond of Whariti troop (N. Squadron), informed the secretary by letter from Murchison that he had taken up a job with the Department of Internal Affairs to exterminate deer in the Spencer range. (John has already been looked upon by the "dears" as being a bit of a killer).

We join with G Squadron (Wanganui) in extending congratulations to Fm. J. T. Cleator who is the latest recruit to the married patch.

Fm. George Martin (O. Te Kuiti) met with a painful accident while cycling recently, a fall resulting in his breaking three ribs.

We regret to report that Captain T. J. I. Thomson, O.C., I Squadron, met with a nasty street accident in Lambton Quay, Wellington on October 27th which has detained him in bed.

Sympathy will be extended to the O.C. of G (Wanganui) and his wife in the serious illness of Mrs Annabell's father, who recently underwent a major operation. We sincerely hope she will make rapid progress toward recovery.

We are pleased to state that Fm. (Capt.) C. West (C. Gisborne) has now fully recovered from his recent illness, but regret that this valuable member has been moved by the P.W.D. to Kokonawhara to take up a new position.

Fm. M. H. Rofe of the Hastings troop now transferred to married quarters. He ought to be confined to barracks instead. Went and "did it" without telling any of the boys and when he gets settled down in his new quarters, we intend to turn out the guard. Another for married quarters is Cpl. K. May, of the Woodville troop (N. Manawatu).

### Long Lost Brother

#### LEGIONARY IN CANADA.

THE wandering habits of frontiersmen are a constant source of trouble to every secretary and organising officer. It was always so. Narrow boundaries do not exist for men with itching feet and every now and again one goes off on a "walk about" and turns up next in Africa; China; Mexico; South America; Siberia or some other damned place in the Atlas.

Here's an example in a letter that has just arrived from John D. Shawe. He joined the Legion in New Zealand in 1912 and then had an attack of wanderlust. Took it into his head to go to sea in 1913 and roamed round various ports and countries, finally coming to a halt in Canada. No sooner settled there than the call came to serve his flag and he was in the early Canadian rush and served in France.

While in hospital he decided that perhaps his old O.C. in New Zealand would wonder where he was so he wrote. Then he faded off into the great open spaces once more. Now, in September, 1936, he began to think that it was time he wrote again. Once more his old O.C. has learned the whereabouts of this old timer.

Trooper Shawe writes: "Will someone put me in touch with the Legion in New Zealand. It was there I first joined when there were only a very few of us and I want to pick up again."

Trooper Shawe really deserves a joke played on him and his old O.C. suggests that Legionaries who read this should each write a letter of greeting to him so that a mail will arrive at his house, around about Christmas, that will make him wonder if he needs a private secretary. A chap who writes two letters in 20 years is asking for a few coals of fire in his thatch.

Name and address of this New Zealand wanderer:—

JOHN D. SHAWE,  
42 A Spencer Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada

### The Legion at War

It is proposed to publish on this page true experiences of frontiersmen during the War. We hope the feature will prove entertaining and will awaken memories of the lighter side. Contributions are invited from individual frontiersmen. These should be signed with the writer's name and also a non de phone for publication.]

#### THE BATMAN BUNGLES.

Reading an article in the Frontiersman (October, 1936) re gas mask imported by the secretary reminds me of an incident that happened in 1918, when Fritz introduced cloud gas to the New Zealand Division. We were in the Armentieres salient and on Monday, June 19 at 11.45 p.m. Fritz let go with a cloud of chlorine. We donned our gas masks—the old P.H. type, and prepared for action.

The Mayor's co-juggler, (a pet name of mine for batmen) in his hurry to put on his mask, pulled off the respiratory valve. He was running around with his hand over the damaged valve yelling out "What the hell can I do!" He was a very relieved man when someone told him to take the b—— thing off. All danger had



passed.—"Eleven Bar."

#### ANZAC MEMORIES.

Sometime after the landing an Army Medical Board in Cairo was considering the destiny of a large batch of sick and wounded Diggers. What was to be their fate? England, New Zealand, Cairo, Aussie, or back to duty?

A tie-on ticket bearing mystic letters indicated each soldier's trouble; W. (wound), G.D. (general debility), Sh.-Sh. (shell shock), and so on.

One Digger, an Aussie, bore a cryptic sign all his own—"C.B.W."

"That a new one," said one of the quacks. "What does it mean?"

Quick as a flash the Aussie replied, "Complete B—y Wreck."—Sergt. 4486.

#### Correspondence

(To the Editor).

Sir,—At the 1936 Conference at Wanganui all Squadrons voiced their approval of "N" Squadron taking over the *Frontiersman*, and promised their support to the paper. I see by the October issue that only four have paid. Now, Sir, I think that those who are marking time should have their names published in the next issue.—

Yours, etc.,

"PLAY THE GAME."

#### Fear of Russians

CAUSE OF NEW ENTENTE.

ITALO-GERMAN ALIGNMENT.

Out of the confusions brought to Europe by the victory of Italy over the League of Nations is emerging a concrete and highly-important fact. Soviet Russia is making a strong and bold drive to dominate East Europe and is having success that is alarming its rivals, writes Eugene Young in the "San Francisco Chronicle."

Romania, resisting German, Italian, and British pressure, seems definitely to have fallen under the influence of the Russo-French entente, and is providing the ways whereby Russia will be able, in time of war, to march into Central Europe.

In the conference on the Turkish Straits the Russian delegates won the right to send a fleet out into the Aegean and the Mediterranean under its regional agreement with Turkey. It also clinched its position as protector of Turkey, making possible the use of its troops, and air forces to help

that country in case of an attack by Italy.

Acting with France, it is combating the effort of Germany to detach Yugoslavia from the Little Entente. It is intriguing in Bulgaria against the pro-Italian Government.

There are two leading reasons for this sudden activity of Moscow; (1) German reoccupation of the Rhineland would prevent a French march to the aid of Czechoslovakia and other members of the Little Entente, and they were apparently left at the mercy of Germany and Italy. (2) Russia is now producing enough gold to finance extensive war preparations and even to finance a conflict.

The latter factor is the most important. For years progress of the Soviet in its Five-year Plans was held up because it lacked money with which to buy necessary machinery and other supplies for its new industries. Even as late as a year ago it was still sorely handicapped in this respect; and it was unable to get credits. So it pursued a distinctly defensive policy, trying to make peace arrangements in the west and giving way to Japan in the east.

#### A Scorn of Gold.

In the early years of the Red Revolution there was a scorn of gold although British and other explorers had found large deposits in the Ural Mountains. But in recent years the practical men who have come into power in Moscow have realised the importance of this metal and they have been intensively developing these fields. The output was brought to more than £100,000,000 last year. With the growing use of American mining machinery it will be largely increased this year and further progress is likely in the future.

That means ability by Russia to buy anything it needs to bring its vast war industries up to peak of production. It can not only run the ones it now has efficiently, but it can extend them. Already it is turning out tanks, aeroplanes, big guns; machine guns, armoured cars, and ammunition in huge quantities. It is rebuilding its railroads and pushing strategic roads in the west as well as the east.

There is, for instance, the recent renewal of the compact whereby the Soviet is to buy more than £6,000,000 a year of American goods. Any balance owing to us can easily be paid out of the gold supply. And the goods to be bought will be those most useful in developing home industry. Places are again being provided for American experts who can show the ways to

step up production.

How different the situation of Germany and Italy. The former can show only about £10,000,000 gold in its bank reserve; although there may be larger quantities that are hidden at home and abroad. But this amount is not by any means sufficient to prepare for war properly or to carry on a campaign, especially as Germany must import many necessities which Russia can get at home. Italy has only about £50,000,000 of gold, if public admissions are to be accepted, and an adverse trade balance—and expenses in Ethiopia—are steadily drawing on that.

Couple the coming Russian supply of the metal with the huge reserve of France and the entente presents an overwhelmingly financial front.

#### Litvinoff's Moves.

Maxim Litvinoff, the able Foreign Commissar at Moscow, has been taking shrewd advantage of the new situation in which the Soviet has found itself. More than a year ago he gained an outpost for his country in Czechoslovakia, which entered into a military alliance whereby Russian armies and aircraft should be able to operate in that country against the Reich.

This exposed the whole Central European situation to invasion except for the one vital factor—Czechoslovakia could be reached only through Poland or Rumania. Poland was attached to Germany, at least temporarily, and Rumania was largely under German and British influence.

But now Russia has gained permission to build a railway over the Carpathians, in Rumanian territory whereby it can reach Czechoslovakia by use of Rumania's lines that connect with its own.

The able Dr. Edouard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, and King Carol of Rumania have also had shares in making this strategic coup.

The reason for it lies in this situation: Germany has been trying for years to get Poland to give back the Polish corridor to the Baltic and has suggested that its neighbour could get compensation by conquering a corridor to the Black Sea through Rumania and Russia, also by taking over Czechoslovakia. Balkan statesmen have believed the late Marshal Pilsudski was won over to this scheme and that his successor, General Edward Rydz-Smigly, is committed to it.

Russia has evidently given guarantees of independence and support to

Roussels, and King Carol has preferred these to the peril from the west.

#### Turkey Fears Italy.

Similar dangers have driven Turkey into the arms of Moscow once more. Italy has long had an ambition to conquer Asia Minor and, during the Ethiopian affair, it strongly fortified the Dodecanese islands as a possible jumping off place for a naval and air attack. When the British Fleet was concentrated off Egypt, Turkey hastened to make an entente with London.

But when it became evident that Britain was to withdraw the main part of its warships, leaving Italy dominant in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean, it became evident that Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish dictator, had to look around for new support. The opportunity was provided in the Montreux, Switzerland, Conference on the Straits. There Russia, France, and Turkey acted in accord.

Under the new treaty Turkey again becomes master of the Straits and can fortify them. It can give free passage to the warships of any associate in war. And it has now resumed its adherence to the regional defensive pact of which Russia is a guarantor. As the Soviet is building a great fleet of submarines, it thus becomes a factor as against Italy in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Experts in Europe are now generally agreeing that the Russian campaign was the chief reason for the Italo-German entente. Italy found it could not make the desired terms with Moscow for a working partnership and turned to Berlin. And the German leaders were glad to have a hand in forming a block taking in Austria and Hungary also, which could present a strong front against the march of the Northern Bear.

A strong faction in the British Cabinet is inclined to aid Germany against this peril. If Russia should succeed in getting into Central Europe and in establishing itself in the Aegean, the balance of Europe would be badly upset. Also peril would come later to the Asiatic Empire. Hence London is renewing its efforts to get Germany into a combination in the west and to detach France from Russia.

## Our Sea Defence

### IMPORTANCE OF MALTA.

Mr W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., the new Colonial Secretary, presiding at the annual dinner of the Corona Club, the

members of which are all in the Colonial Service, recently, reaffirmed statements by other members of the Government that Britain has no intention of abandoning Malta as a naval base. "We are quitting nowhere," he declared. "Malta is and will remain a British possession and an all-important naval fortress vital to our Imperial interests in the Mediterranean."

Referring to the situation in Palestine, he said British rule and administration must be asserted and maintained in that country. There must be no doubt that we intend to carry out our obligations to all races and religions there with both honour and justice.

In regard to Tanganyika Territory, he directed his listeners to the clear statements of his predecessors and of the Prime Minister on the subject. People, whether in England or in East Africa, who sought to cast doubts or spread suspicion on this matter were

### Memorial Photographs

We still have in hand a small number of the Memorial photographs, reproduced on art paper. Any member wishing one should advise us immediately, forwarding 6d in stamps to defray expenses. Better still, send 2/6 and the Frontiersman will be delivered to you regularly, commencing with this issue (including photo).

not serving the cause which they sought to uphold.

"We live once again" Mr Ormsby-Gore concluded, "in an unsettled and dangerous world where power politics and great new armaments threaten the peace and order of civilisation in more than one continent.

"Imperial defence has become once again a first concern of my colleagues in the Cabinet. We have the will and are determined to have the means to stand up for our Imperial rights, our freedom, and our civilisation.

"Not for Sale."

"In this duty of Imperial defence the Colonial Empire has always loyally been ready to play its part. And when Right Rev. Bishops of the Church of England say we should give up colonies I ask them which British subjects are not for sale and British subjects in the colonies overseas do not want their flag taken from them. (Cheers).

"No part of the territories now under British rule would willingly exchange that rule for any other.

(Cheers).

"I have no use for defeatism in any shape or form, and if we are ever again a first concern of my colleagues vinced that the whole of the Empire overseas will again stand solidly together as it did in the dread years of 1914 to 1918.

"Peace, continuity of policy, social progress, and economic developments are the greatest needs of the Colonial Empire and every step must now be taken to protect these essentials from the threat of force, no matter where it comes from, whether internally or externally.

"Imperial defence includes the internal and local defence of each and every territory under the Crown. In view of the unsettled conditions of the world every Colonial Government and population must play its part to the utmost of its capacity in the interests of the Empire as a whole."

## The Honoured Dead

### IMPRESSIVE MUTUEKA SERVICE.

On Sunday, October 25 at 2 p.m., the unveiling of the N.Z. Frontiersmen's Memorial to the Legion 9000 honoured dead took place at the Cross roads, Tongariro. In synchronic with this ceremony Q Squadron paraded in Mutueka and attended a Memorial service at the Presbyterian Church. There was a good muster of Frontiersmen, representatives from Hawke's Bay, Invercargill, Christchurch and the Solomon Islands being among those present. The parade was in charge of Capt. D. Hughes, a *Mons. veteran*. The Ladies' Pipe Band which led the parade, was in charge of Pipe-Major Topp.

On the route to the church the parade halted at the War Memorial, where a beautiful wreath was placed by Capt. Hughes, Pipe-Major Topp playing the "Flowers of the Forest."

After this brief ceremony the parade proceeded to the church, the interior of which was beautifully draped in royal purple, with floral emblems to match, the work of Mrs J. T. Brough. In a prominent position the figures 9000 were displayed, and these were surrounded by a beautiful laurel wreath containing the Legion's motto, "God Guard Thee."

An impressive service was conducted by the Padre of the Squadron, the Rev. H. Bloomfield. The hymns chosen were appropriate to the occasion. The lessons were read by Capt. D. Hughes and Adjutant G. Thomas. The "Flowers of the Forest," with drum accompaniment, the most plaintive of Scottish laments, was feelingly played by Pipe-Major Topp. Mr J. Ford, organist, gave an impressive rendering of the Dead March in "Sand," with drum accompaniment.

# Malta a Colony Again

## ROME THE CAUSE.

### ITALIAN CLAIMS REFUTED.

(From a broadcast by Árpád Szigetváry from IZM Maurewa).

Italy puts forward three claims to the possession of Malta—prior possession, language and religion. To prove that the first is weak and the second false, one must go back some way in history.

Malta was never held by Italy in ancient times. It was held for a short period by the Roman Empire—a very different thing to the Kingdom of Italy of to-day. With the fall of the Roman Empire it passed to the Eastern, or Byzantine, Empire at Constantinople. It was held at various times by the Carthaginians, Arabs and others until it was conquered by the Norman Count Roger of Sicily in 1090, to the enrichment of his Norman followers, just as Norman William held England. Sicily was a possession of the Normans and Malta in its turn was theirs, not Sicilian in the true sense of the word. There was no Kingdom of Italy in those days—the peninsula was merely a collection of petty States, squabbling one with another. It was not until centuries later that the Kingdom of Italy was born—paradoxically enough aided by British blood and British money. Therefore it cannot be said that the claim to possession by Italy as such is based on fact, as a further glimpse of history will emphasise. In 1530 Malta passed to the Knights of St. John. They held it against all-comers, even against the Turks at their zenith, until Napoleon expelled them in 1798. In 1800 the British arrived in earnest on the scene. Aided by the Maltese themselves and Neapolitan and Portuguese fleets, Nelson captured the island, and we have held it ever since. In passing it may be remarked that while many of us were apt to disparage the efforts of the Portuguese in the late war, we forgot, or perhaps we do not know, that she is our oldest Ally, and has aided us in many ways and at many times.

In the face of these facts, the Italian claim to Malta on the grounds of prior possession falls to the ground.

Now we come to the language claim. This is even weaker than the territorial one. The Maltese, a conglomerate race as is readily understandable from the successive waves of conquest are, in the lower orders, mainly Punic in race and their language is of

Semitic origin. Nothing at all Italian about it. Certainly a number of the upper classes speak Italian. But just as many speak English. The lower orders, naturally finding English of the greatest advantage in dealing with the British sailors, soldiers and airmen, upon whom the prosperity of Malta depends, in a large measure speak English. As a matter of fact recently the parents and guardians of Malta were asked which language they would prefer to be taught in the schools as a secondary one to Maltese—English or Italian. The vast majority voted for English. That disposes of the Italian claim put forward on the language basis.

As for the religion claim: That is easily dissipated. The Maltese, like the Italians, are, in the main, Catholics. The Catholic religion is universal, so that Italy in pressing a claim to possession of Malta on the grounds of similarity of religion could just as logically claim possession of a goodly portion of the world. Thus what could logically follow the first claim proves how illogical is that claim.

Surely no other proof is necessary of the fallacy of Italian arguments.

The trouble which culminated in the loss by Malta of her Dominion status was engineered and encouraged by Italy. It culminated in the expulsion of an Italian priest for causing political strife and interfering in the internal affairs of the Dominion with the express purpose of creating trouble. Italy protested and even threatened. When one remembers what the Italians have done to people who caused trouble in Fascist politics, one could afford to smile, were not the matter so fraught with tragedy.

The Italians are also working in the fertile field of very malleable youth. The middle and upper-classes of Malta desire "white collar" professional positions—careers in medicine, law and journalism. They take their degrees at the University of Malta, only to find that there are no "white collar" jobs open to them in an already overcrowded island. They deign not to stoop to honest manual toil, and thus join the ranks of malcontented over-educated youth such as exist in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, India, Cuba, etc., where "advanced" education has outrun the chances of employment available. The Italians have been quick to seize the opportunity. They say glibly to the student youth of Malta: "Work for union with Italy. There are no jobs

for you in Britain or her Empire. If Malta belonged to Italy there would be plenty of jobs for you in Italy." It is easy, is it not, to realise what fertile soil Italy has to work in among these poor deluded students and graduates, youths faced with the hopeless failure of their desires in chosen careers.

Behind it all of course is no philanthropic desire on the part of Italy to provide positions for the products of Malta's University—she has few enough jobs to give to products of her own universities. Italy desires Malta as a stepping-stone to her North African possession, Libya, and the possessions she hopes will be yet hers, if her hopes of the Mediterranean as "Our Sea" are realised. As well as that she resents the presence of the most powerful nation on an island so near her shores.

And so, through the interference of a foreign Power Malta has lost her right of self-government. How liberally that measure of self-government was I can best emphasise by quoting the constitution of the Senate. It was composed of 17 members, 10 of whom were special members representing the Clergy, the Nobility, the Graduates, the Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Union Council, the other 7 being elected by a special electorate. Could anything be fairer than that?

We may certainly sympathise with Italy's desire for expansion, especially after the "raw deal" of the Allies' and Associated Powers after the war but we certainly cannot sympathise with her methods.

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## Art Printing

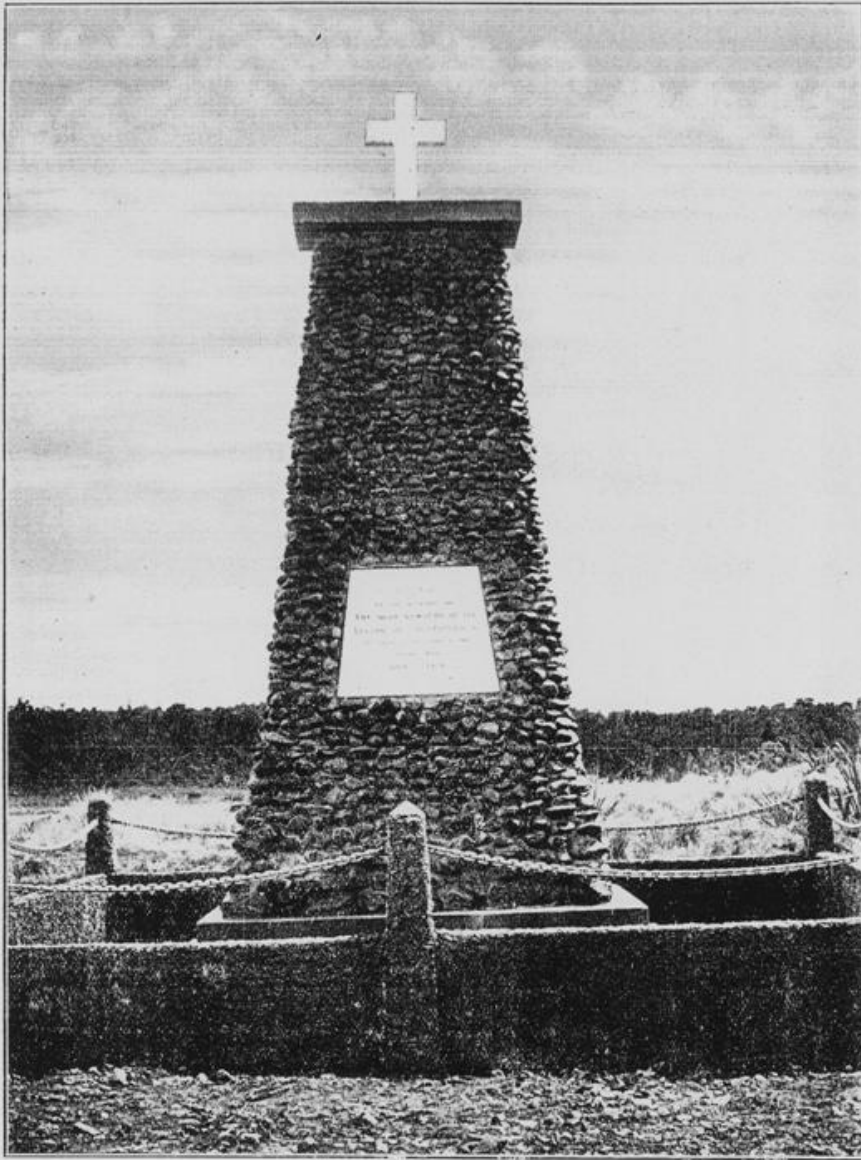
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*Pilsener Lager*

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Khyber Pass — Auckland

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