NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

V.U.C. Reunion in Cairo

To many of us, the younger ones in particular, Victoria's fighting students are becoming remote, part and parcel of a tradition which passed with Prof. McKenzie and "Scotch" Adamson. Those of us unblest by wistful memories of McKenzie's high-pitched waver and ten-gallon sombrero—of Scotch inimitable and connubial cut-up of a different world and to lose that sense of personal pride in El Alamein and Mareth which should be ours. Much of this feeling arises directly from lack of news. Our fellows are scattered from England to Madagascar and we hear little of them.

On the Exec. file, however, are dozens of overseas letters expressing thanks for parcels, remembrances of the College, and best wishes to staff and students. Moreover, we have just received a full report of the third V.U.C. reunion in Cairo from Sgt. L. B. Sandford, Public Relations Service; these should bring our overseas students a little nearer to us.

It came off at the New Hotel, Cairo, on the 13th March and attendance was not limited to the thirty-five New Zealanders, Representatives of British and Egyptian Universities, Staff-Sgt. Ford and Dr. Wendall Cleland, joined in the festivities.

Of first importance was the signing of a specially inscribed scroll, and a witty round of self-introductions. Next, a hearty welcome to Miss June Cummins, a former student and the first woman to attend a reunion. The pace thus set, the evening was an evening of real cheer and song with the boys. Would there be anything like spirit here.

Presiding was Col. T. D. M. Stout, Chairman of the College Council, although very much in absentia. An excellent thing this, to find our Council Chairman among an evening of good cheer and song with the boys. Would there be a like spirit here.

Capt. Wild indeed toasted the old College well, and it trusted the present students, in gratitude for their remembrance and kindness.

Dr. Wendall Cleland (American University, Cairo) kept all amused by a survey of our debt to the ancient Egyptians. We owed to them the discovery of the smelting process of copper, which was the real development of the wheel. What could we do without the wheel? We should lose at least a very good song.

The many other speakers, all handled the good mallet and with much to say:

"It was a pretty rapid advance. The Egyptians had left stoves and equipment everywhere. This bombardier was looking over the stuff, turning it over and so on, and when he called me over...

You are a Varsity boy, care for this," he said. It was Barney Murphy's Outline. I felt really sorry for the Varsity then.

And again, a story of an outlying enemy provision dump, in an apparently secure position, built in unguarded. Our boys made merry on this. They would slip through the small ones, break the packs of cigarettes and medicines, and then—hit it by fire—

But you have the imagination too.

Then finally, back to Mardel in the trucks, full and weary, with pleasant thoughts of a common interest—a College which has not forgotten them, and which stands behind them in the fight.

WE WORK FOR THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS

Every day last week students were at work in the main hall and asked if they would work on the work day for patriotic funds. Every day last week the exec. room was busy with people asking for students to come and dig their gardens or mind their hens, etc.

By Friday some two hundred and fifty students had volunteered to work—one hundred of these were Training College students.

Great difficulty was experienced in allocating jobs, since the majority of the jobs were for men and a large number of women volunteered to work. This difficulty was overcome, however, since numbers of our girls were not averse to a little manual labour.

Unfortunately Saturday morning was wet, making gardening and other outside jobs uninviting. Some stalwarts, however, turned up and dug in spite of the rain.

The results of the day are not yet available, but the money not yet come in, but a considerable sum is expected.
V.U.C. Overseas

SOLDIERS’ LETTERS

Letters come in, in ones and twos, by overseas mail... thanks for parcels, stories of action, remittances of College News to so many addresses—London, Harrow, M.E.F., Malta, all over the world. Here is one from an unknown address:

S/Jt. Guy Smith, London, writes: “One complaint of the English climate is that I’m continually knocking into chaps I know at motor buses is a remarkable number of V.U.C. men who have found their way to this island. I’ve had some pretty gold break-ins in these letters; from all countries—South Coast from here to Cornwall, Wellingtonians, Victoria College students.

Next from Flying Officer Hugh Drummond, breathing good public air at Harrow, tells us of his visit to London: “Thanks a lot for the Christmas parcel, indeed a most welcome supplement to what is from time to time a pretty monotonous diet; although this is the wrong time of year, it’s a bit of a treat. We hope we will provide us with several pleasant meals. We bought it from the local French farmer and have been very pleased. I’m looking forward for the next. It’s not really in perfect condition for the table, but we could wait no longer.”

From London, Cedric Wright, of M.G.B.S (that’s blanked you) states in dashing hand, “As you gather from the front page of the motorboat trade, Britain’s light naval forces. A motorboat is a natty little craft not to be confused with an M.T.B. or the slower M.I. I like this England.”

A course last summer in the Western Highlands of Scotland. It was just like a holiday, had a rafting good leave in the Lakes district and spent another in the Lake district. When the occasion offers, I have a grand old time to visit Eirean. How the interruption just arrived. Guess I’d better get on with the war...”

This week, to hold his end up, we hear from Pte. Arthur Ashley-Jones, of M.G.B.S.：“Life has not been a complete snap, being fairly unsettled lately, and since the beginning of November we have been constantly on the move, covering in our travels enormous tracts of desert. It would be difficult to imagine the monotony of these vast areas of featureless wasteland, so unlike the romantic pictures one sees of rolling sandhills. For most part it is just a barren stretch of desert, sand dunes and featureless rock.

Still, it has its interest. We have had pleasant parties by the coast and on the lakes and have seen some of the battle-scared coastal towns, notably Bardia and Tobruk. Both are very picturesque, full of Siegfried line camps and beautiful heaps of rubble. The latter in fact is just a pile of crumbled Masonry and papier mache shells. Not a single house or building stands.

In the evening the any fire is vast scrap heap of wrecked or burnt-out planes, tanks, vehicles and ordnance which has been chucked up with the bulk of sunken tanks, destroyed houses, and the like, a picture of complete devastation.”

Not a letter comes in without the usual parcels and gifts for those who organise them. Not a letter comes in without interesting news of V.U.C. men and their exploits! This College should be proud of them—more power to their elbows!”

North Africa

For two days only was I anywhere, overhead the enemy, and I went up and over the line of officers, to give him a spell from the constant shelling. I was commanding a signal section with one of our field regiments who was attached. I was able to see the enemy, the small black dot of convoys which made the hill look like a small wisp of smoke, the great mists of smoke that came out of the smokestacks, the great explosions which were taking place in the enemy’s trenches. The thing was to keep the enemy in mind, the enemy had never been out of my position by sound and flash, and the thing was to throw heavy stuff back at us as fast as he could.

I was on the gun for two days of it felt like a spell. The sharp, continuous bark of our own guns day and night, plus the regular barking of the enemy gunners. I had landed nearby and kept one gunner dead on the line of fire and had the lost seven chaps killed and wounded in those two days. The only consolation we can have is that we have killed every shell that came over at least ten went back. We far outnumbered the enemy in guns...

He hung on only two days after being completely surrounded, and once he started to crack up the whole front collapsed immediately.

The specialists then came on the air calling the Eighth Army, and we had the unique, and pleasant, experience of using one of our wireless sets to contact them. I actually heard the Italian civilian operators asking for terms of surrender. Our reply was “Unconditional surrender,” which he refused and then went over the air. Shortly after we went on the offensive to the other formations of the Eighth Army, and within twenty minutes a deathly silence had settled over the area. We had stopped firing and the gunners lying next to their weapons. As far as we could tell, the thing seemed hard to believe, and then a couple of hours later a number of enemy transports came bumping down the roads towards our lines, all laden with troops, on their way for the—coming for the war ever was. They looked tired and hungry and seemed pleased that at least they had survived our terrific bombardment and were still alive.

Among them was the German 90th Light Motorised Division, veterans of the desert campaigns, who had fought against the Turks so often. It was this division that had completely surrounded us in the retreat in June last year, and it was our rear guard that, atculy’s head-long charge through the ring of surrounding forces, was cut off there then.

Now they came into our lines, beaten and glad to give themselves up. Twelve months into the war, a powerful and tough fighting force. Now, the gun had been slowly eaten out of them. Gradually, one by one, we had knocked out guns which they couldn’t hold, knocked out all of their armour and men, and at last there were smashed guns. I think represents a small scale, just what will happen to the whole German army.

S.P.I.K.E., 1943

Contributions are again solicited for S.P.I.K.E., 1943, and must be in the hands of the Editor by the end of the vacation.

The Executive offers a prize of 10/6 for the best contributions in each issue, verse, verse, and the photographic medium.

We are at war against the enemy, malevolent and inhuman—be sure your contribution does not reflect our own. We are at war, and we are responsible not only to ourselves but to fellow students in the line of battle; work hard, work, do special work for the war effort, so why should we not pull our weight? There are no extra semesters, even if you are not able to do work, you are able to study; do not abuse your opportunity. Because we are fortunate let us use our good fortune for a common good. Keep your work up to date, hand in your work on time—and find time to help in some war-work. Be active in student affairs—remember we are democratic, and we are responsible not only to ourselves but to fellow students in the line of battle; work hard, work, do special work for the war effort, so why should we not pull our own weight? Where extra seminars are required, why cannot the projected faculty committees get to work? They could also take a hand and organise groups to help students who are keen to work, but who have for one reason or another got behind in their work. That is our job. That is what we must do.

STUDY FOR VICTORY!

The magnificent response of students at Victoria to the somewhat exacting demands made of them during the Liberty Loan Campaign is something of which we can be justly proud, and lends emphasis to the happy fact that the College is taking its war-time responsibilities seriously. But we cannot afford to relax for a moment in our individual efforts to increase the tempo of the offensive against Pan-Islam.

Our students, with their usual willingness to sacrifice, are called upon to make that further the cause of Liberty can be ignored by us. One of these sacrifices lies in transferring our surplus money to the Government for war expenditure.

There is no need to debate the necessity for National Savings We all know their importance and facilities are being provided at the College for students to open accounts and pay weekly contributions in to them. The organisation of the scheme is in the hands of Jim Winchester, assisted by Laurie Scott, Bev, William O’Brien, Gauhar Wascher, and Hylton Burt, one of whom will be in attendance at the Exec. room waiting to do business with YOU on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 6.30 and 7 to 7.30 p.m.

Already TWENTY-FIVE students have opened accounts and are contributing between them 30/- a week. This is good, but it can only be a beginning. There are 500 students at the College and there is no reason why every one of them should not join the group.

STUDY FOR VICTORY!

What’s this about the lower intellectual level of T.C. students? In Norway “Attemps to force students to become Army volunteers have been strongly resisted by Oslo students, 2,000 of whom are going into the reserves. Five of them have been arrested, and the ring leaders of the disturbance.”

The intellectual level seems alright to me.
RECONSTRUCTION

"Plans for post-war reconstruction in New Zealand" was the subject discussed at the July meeting of the Society of Arts at the Auckland branch of the Royal Society. Mr. J. S. Reid, speaking in a private capacity, said the future of New Zealand under the proposals at present being prepared, but their ultimate adoption, would depend upon the political conditions of the day. Mr. Reid briefly covered the conditions that had existed in New Zealand itself and in New Zealand in the world at the present time, and then turned to the problems of the change-over from war to peacetime economy, the loss of men who had no skill in which they had received training, the War-time appointments which would be ended, and the unemployment which would result from the peaceful occupation of the population.

Rehabilitation at home raised innumerable problems. Orphanages would be partially forgotten: many men would have no skill in which they had received training. War-time appointments would terminate and employers would be bound to discharge their pre-war employees despite changed conditions.

Transition

During the transitional period it is proposed to continue special rates of pay to those who are temporarily unemployed and to provide all the facilities necessary for men to receive the technical training and retraining necessary to enable them to provide with permanent employment in the future. The temptation from the shop must be to take three months' temporary employment, but from the long-term point of view it is essential that the period of transition should be utilised to give men the change they need to enable them to manage their own occupation, and not a blindfold occupation in the future.

The long-term point of view is essential for the restoration of a peace-time economy. The temptation of a post-war period is the immediate realization of war-time controls and rationing and the provision of commodities which the public has so long been denied. The disastrous effects of post-war inflation in 1918 were ample warning against such a course of action. The production of capital goods should be carried out before the demands for consumer goods. The period of restoring peace-time industry and employment should be made available as soon as possible.

Planning

The period of restoration of capital goods is essential to the rehabilitation of men and women for permanent peace-time positions and in restoring public utilities and public works that have been neglected for war-time essential industries. The Government must extend war-time controls over industry, rationing and employment. Sir Virginius government control, increased cooperation between worker and employer, the long-term plan will be necessary.

As a speaker from the floor pointed out, the Government should acquaint the people of New Zealand with a full knowledge of the programme of rehabilitation and condition them to expect the continuance of rationing and control while this single people prepare for the new war that must be initiated before the peace is won and it is too late to change the public.

EXEC. MEETING

The last exec. meeting was a little disappointing. The business which required the attention of the members and important issues were held over. However, it was a bleak and inchoate meeting, the two members-elected and conditions in general did not promote the expected action and initiative.

Agitation for better library hours over the forthcoming holiday period is not likely to succeed. Degree exams, draw near and no obstacle to attendance could be found. This one can be, should be, and will be removed.

The question of Faculty Committees brought the decision that a special meeting be held to discuss their formation. It should be quite a simple business in practice. To form a production committee in industry, leading hands approach the management with suggestions for improved organisation, elimination of wasted time or material, and set up a committee to handle details. Similarly a few responsible students only approach the Professor or Dean concerned. The students want all our curricula, more tutorials, or whatever they feel will benefit their studies.

It is an excellent move. May it prosper!

A hostile letter was received from Sir Thomas, who stated with indignation that the stone block fallen from a wall of the main steps had stood there for three times or three times overthrown before the cement dried. Prof. Kirk denying, that letter and his own difficulties, the students are responsible. If so, why not take, she, they or it kindly out of it. It not only baffles the architect but also prevents the old college from regaining composure after the recent "quakes. Thank you.

A Publicity Officer is required—an appointment which was held over from last meeting. In the past this position has boilled down to that of Postmaster. The appointment is not quite acceptable by the exec.—the other half who had written a more militant, a Public Relations Officer to advertise the University to the public. It is important to advertise that students who can win for Victoria credit in the city as university personnel. Lacking a suitable person the position stands as before.

In all, not as interesting a meeting as one might have hoped.

Mr. Reid went on to discuss the necessity of placing disabled men in suitable work immediately—a lesson that a few were learnt from the work done by returned men themselves after the last war. The treatment of psychoneuroses presented another comprehensive which another speaker for the time being, could not be successfully dealt with by the expert care immediately available.

The International position should complicate the internal rehabilitation. Specialised production to feed occupied people was an idea very likely of acquisiting necessary machinery from abroad might hinder the restoration of peace-time conditions. It is an international point of view lease-land offers a practical solution to the problem of providing each country with the essential requirements to the peace, the requirements of which, is difficult to foretell.

Book Reviews

Signed With Their Honour

—James Aldridge.

A "Gladiator" squadron in the Greek Civil War and the marriage of a British officer to a Greek girl. That's all the truth there is to it, and for those seeking any semblance of a novel, look elsewhere. For this is a most realistic book. Short pithy sentences, full of description, and a deep foreboding and behind, it strong feeling. One can feel in turn defeat, disillusionment, despair, and dispiritedness of men without weapons, the crazy resistance of the Greek people, and the tenaciousness of an air-borne. The author has seen these things and has an uncanny power of conveying their meaning to us. The outstanding thought, amidst the turmoil of ideas which form the book, is "Give us the weapons, we can do the rest." In the light of present events, that plea is justified. If ever there was an army with the dice loaded against it, both by its own commanders and the technical superiority of the enemy, it was the B.E.F. in Greece. And when that army, at the height of entrenched, in or connected with education. The suggestion came from a realisation that the students are not only the responsible adult members of a vitally important section of the community, but that they have a duty for him to say: "Obviously the common standards must be a certain standard of education" to be assessed, he makes it quite clear, by means of examples, that to give an "A" course an "A" standard the N.Z.U. requires for a "B" course an "A" standard. This is the minimum requirement for admission to T.C. The N.Z.U. or the Faculty is not afraid of progress after admission provided you are willing to continue paying fees. Thus we see that the statement that T.C. standards for common subjects is not so much undeniable as irrelevant.

Miss Thomson raises one astounding objection to the idea, "Surely the N.Z.U. student teachers are paid while training while and if not, why dear Miss Thomson, so future schoolteachers should be bumbling grateful, they must not be surprised that we say that the hand that feeds them. Common engineers, carpenters, butchers of the world are not only are paid while training, but they also have the bad taste to join Trade Unions and no one but the employer think of them for it. Would it be heresy to suggest that T.C. students are underpaid, and N.Z.U. students, like a vulgar tenement union, might be able to do something about it?"

Mr. Patterson and the O.U.S.A., and apparently Miss Thomson also, are unaware of any reasons why Training Colleges should become affiliated, but they consider the decision if they become acquainted with adequate reasons." Allow me to state a few. From the University's viewpoint:—

1. The strength derived from increased numbers and finance.
2. The cooperation between T.C. and N.Z.U.
3. Broadering of viewpoint through interconnection of the college, vital interest of a potent section of the community.
4. From the Training College's viewpoint:
   1. It would organise all students and staff in full representation in affairs not strictly academic.
   2. The affiliated liaison between T.C. and N.Z.U. at present almost non-existent.

N.Z.U. MAGAZINE

ROSTRUM

will be here

ON SALE

shortly

See BEVERLEY WILLIAMS

OR SALIENT STAFF MEMBER

1. Gives T.C. students a measure of independence from their Principal, which at present they do not have.
2. Eliminates the necessity for continuity in T.C. schemes at present made very difficult by the shortness of the academic year.
3. Enables all T.C. students to have a voice in all those important functions of the N.Z.U.A.A. which affect War-time concessions for students, curricula, investigation student health, I.S.S., student rehabilitation, and routine affairs such as debating tours, sports commissions, and sports and tournaments.

"A.V. O'Brien.

"A Gladiators" is a measure of independence from their Principal, which at present they do not have. It eliminates the necessity for continuity in T.C. schemes at present made very difficult by the shortness of the academic year. Enables all T.C. students to have a voice in all those important functions of the N.Z.U.A.A. which affect War-time concessions for students, curricula, investigation student health, I.S.S., student rehabilitation, and routine affairs such as debating tours, sports commissions, and sports and tournaments.

A.V. O'Brien.
SPORT
Cherchez la femme

The approaching holidays will once again present Varsity sports clubs with their old problem — how to maintain all their teams when so many students have dashed to the outer darkness with nostalgic blues. Probably it will mean defaulding a few games against the lower grade teams, but it is to be hoped that all senior teams will continue without being greatly weakened. Especially it is to be hoped in the case of the men’s hockey senior team, for this team has an excellent chance of winning the local season, an championship, which Varsity has missed for many a long year.

The energetic tramp club has arranged a ten-day trip to Arthur’s Pass during the holidays. They say the main attraction in connection with the skiing, which is doubtless true, but it is reported that the fag pack managed to reach the top of Arangi–Kapapa Peak by means of a few turns of a rival pack ahead. At last we had encountered the women’s harrier club! The running became very spirited until we caught them up, and Dickie was provoked to pass some remark about the fox running third. Our curiosity satisfied, and with minds set on higher things (unfortunate expectation) we were soon on our way again and after a short detour through Karrar returned to the gym. This was a Human Shield once a match a but no doubt wholesome afternoons, full of the ways of welcome by the club captain.

In almost two weeks’ time the annual inter-varsity harrier tournament for the Dixon Trophy will be held in Wellington. Teams representing the four colleges will compete over the 4½ miles course at Silverstream. Victoria has reasonable hopes of winning the Shield, which Otago so narrowly beat us for in 1941. We will have a strong team, with talent such as Rowberry, McDowell, de la Mare, Danieli and others, certainly possess. After the race the victors will be entertained at a dinner, which, since no hotels are willing to provide it, will be catered for by the cafeteria. A dance to follow the dinner is at present being arranged.

BILLETES WANTED

The problem of accommodation for the visitors is proving rather difficult and we would like to make an appeal to all students to help us out. In the list of the Monday, 26th, guest for Friday 20th, 21st and Sunday 22nd should contact Ian Mc-Doyle, or sign the list on the notice board.

SALENT

Men’s Hockey

The Varsity A-Fort Dorset match was the big game of the season for the men’s hockey club. It had generally held that by hockey standards that the Dorset team would defeat University with very little nip. The University eleven played the best game to date. Every member of the University eleven were called on to victory by a hike party from the lower teams.

Dorset opened the attacking right at the start. Diprose, the Dorset centre-forward, scored after about four minutes’ play. This was a bad start for a game on which the championship depended. At the bullseye Diprose once again beat Ivo Ting for the ball and the speedy Dorset forwards carried the ball to the Varsity circle, where a University back obstruction, and Dorset were awarded a penalty corner. Michael Bengo stopped the ball on his pads only to have the rebound snapped up by the insurging forwards and shot into the net. The score 2-nil after about seven minutes’ play. Things were being decidedly disastrous.

George Ray opened the University score from a scuffle and this was followed by two more goals by Ivo Ting from passes by John Mitchell. The score now was University 3, Dorset 2, and remained the same up till halftime.

After ten minutes of the second half Diprose netted a very fine goal, making the score 3-all. Dorset, afterwards missed an open goal. Ting played a very fine game and other forwards in the pack appeared to be too excited. The play during the second half was fairly even and extremely fast. Graham Spaight at centre-half played a very fine game, but the effect of the match was when George Ray left at inside scored the winning goal. He could between the two defending full backs and ran in at the goal. The University back changed his direction and put the ball behind the goalkeeper, who was right out of position. This made the score 4-3. The game ended about five minutes later.

The University team is now first equal with the Dorset team in the championship, but has the tie in hand. Saturday University A defeated Dorset by four goals to two, but as Dorset chalked up 12 against 15 ticks. The championship position is unchanged. (Ed.)

ACHIEVEMENT!

Commencing in foul but finishing in fine weather, seven stools successfully crossed from Waipoulan to Shannon known two weeks earlier, and thus averted the calamitous defeat suffered three years ago.

On Saturday, two hours of flat bush track and wading in icy water, was compounded by an intermittent drizzle, Waipoulan folks are reached. Tents pop up and a cheerful fire warms the cold. Scrambling up the south bank of the stream fills in the rest of the evening discussion is most intellectual—early to bed with stars shining in the sky. At 5:30 a.m. the air is chill, but, thank God, there is no rain and we commence to toll up

The ridge to Onangonono. Gradually, the valley became deeper and the cold—everything is wet and moss-covered—patches of snow appear over hanging logs and branches of the Onango- nongo at last—the mist envelops us. A pause before plunging down again into more wet bush.

Two hours later the cloud has dis- appeared, the run shits forth, warmly benumbed fingers and feet. Lunch is the tale of a prismatic which would not go, and an appetising billey-mixture from tins of many different labels.

Then followed two hours of arc walking—1 for one have sore feet as a result.

Women’s Hockey Club

Weaknesses in the senior team were shown up strikingly in its last match against T.O.G. In the forwards the worst fault was a tendency to pass practically straight across the field instead of gaining ground by forward hits. Understanding among the backs was not much in evidence. The full backs did not play far enough up the field so that in the second half, they were closed out of position the opposing forwards had a clear run in front of them. This weakness was more marked in positions owing to the absence of one of the usual players.

The intermediate concentrations was being two short, which probably ac- counted for their losing 2-6 to Wellington Tech. The forward line in partic- ular was affected so that the game was mainly defensive in the first spell. In the second half the ball was in Tech’s territory most of the time and our team was unluckily not so score. Then followed two hours of arc walking by default, only 6 of St. Joseph’s turn- ing up.

T. C. TOURNAMENT

Saturday, 14th.—Welcome Social.
Monday, 16th.—Debate and Drama
Tuesday, 17th.—Tournament Ball. Football in afternoon.

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