

1944
NEW ZEALAND

CANTEEN BOARD

REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

Laid on the Table of both Houses of the General Assembly by Leave

A REPORT on the activities of the Canteen Board, together with Trading and Profit Accounts and Balance-sheet, is submitted hereunder.

The following are at present members of the Canteen Board, which was established under the Defence Canteen Emergency Regulations 1939 :—

- Hon. F. Jones (Chairman).
- Air Commodore F. E. T. Hewlett, D.S.O., O.B.E.
- Colonel C. W. Salmon, D.C.M.
- Paymaster Lieutenant-Commander H. R. Sleeman, M.B.E.
- B. C. Ashwin, Esquire.
- R. P. Fraser, Esquire.

Mr. J. H. Slater is Secretary of the Board.

Canteen services for the New Zealand Armed Forces in this country and all areas of the Pacific are controlled by the Board. Small units which have not been brought within the scope of the Board's retail organization have the facility of purchasing from bulk stores operated by the Board. Thus all members are assured of having access to available lines.

All calls for service have been met, although this has in many cases necessitated unprecedented organization to meet varying needs.

The Secretary of the Canteen Board is responsible for giving effect to the Board's policy, including staffing, purchasing, supply, and accounting. These functions are performed by a section of the New Zealand Government Public Service of which the Secretary is the Officer in Charge.

The low percentage of administrative expenses to revenue (0.40) assures those concerned that an efficient organization is provided at a cost which will bear any investigation.

It is the policy of the Board to stock only those lines for which there is a demand, and articles are not stocked in the hope of creating a demand or on a sale or return basis. Arrangements are immediately made to procure lines which are demanded but which are not in stock.

Supply arrangements are made through the Ministry of Supply or direct with manufacturers or New Zealand distributors at wholesale prices.

Chain-store selling-prices apply generally, and prices fixed for certain proprietary lines are observed. Special low prices are arranged for a number of essential and popular lines.

Official price-lists are published from time to time for the information of canteen patrons.

Contact with the Government supply authorities ensures that a proper balance is preserved between civilian and Service requirements outside the scope of the equipment and ration issues.

The male staff, which provides the actual selling service in New Zealand, is comprised of returned soldiers or men ineligible for service overseas, while members of the W.A.A.C. and W.A.A.F. are employed wherever practicable.

Apart from the rent of buildings, which are provided by the Services concerned, out of revenue the Board meets all expenses of operation, including staff salaries, cost of rations and quarters, sea freight, railages, &c.

The Board provides motion-picture services at sixteen locations, where modern projection and sound equipment ensures that the programmes procured are screened to best advantage.

The conduct of servicemen in wet canteens is closely watched, and effective picketing ensures that there is no abuse of this privilege. A high standard of cleanliness, combined with regular inspection, ensures that a most hygienic and well-conducted service is rendered.

The Profit and Loss Appropriation Balance which appears below is arrived at as under :—

Year ended				Net Profit.		Distributed.	
				£	s. d.	£	s. d.
31st March, 1940	..	..	..	11,607	15 5	2,330	0 0
31st March, 1941	..	..	..	51,066	8 5	16,838	14 1
31st March, 1942	..	..	..	87,739	5 10	28,501	12 9
31st March, 1943	..	..	..	278,514	10 5	49,761	7 5
				428,928	0 1	97,431	14 3
Undistributed, 31st March, 1943				331,496	5 10	..	

The Canteen Board's business is conducted on commercial lines, which permit of the profits indicated being earned. This profit accrues for the benefit of Service personnel, and the undistributed portion provides the Board with working capital, thus enabling it to operate without assistance from Government or other sources.

The Board's low-selling-price policy confers many direct benefits in addition to the distribution of profit referred to above. No portion of canteen profit is paid to Government or other funds.

It is claimed that the Canteen Board's organization has provided a high standard of service to the Armed Forces in all areas in which it has been called upon to operate, and conventional necessities have been made available at reasonable prices.

The Board has established and enjoys the best of relations with the commercial community.

This opportunity is taken to express appreciation to those within the Service Departments who, outside the scope of official requirements, have rendered willing and useful service to this organization.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence, Chairman.

CANTEEN BOARD

TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

<i>Dr.</i>	Per Cent.	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	Per Cent.	£	s.	d.
Stock, 1st April, 1942	..	48,733	4	10	Gross sales	..	1,742,871	12	10
Plus purchases	..	1,471,383	1	2					
		1,520,116	6	0					
Less stock, 31st March, 1943	..	160,502	18	2					
Cost price of goods sold	..	1,359,613	7	10					
Gross profit, transferred to Profit and Loss Account	..	383,258	5	0					
	100·00	£1,742,871	12	10		100	£1,742,871	12	10

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

<i>Dr.</i>	Per Cent.	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	Per Cent.	£	s.	d.
Canteen salaries and wages	..	69,510	19	3	Gross profit, transferred from Trading Account	..	383,258	5	0
Canteen freights, cartage, postage, and sundry expenses	..	19,079	8	11					
Depreciation of assets	..	9,185	13	2					
Administrative expenses	..	6,967	13	3					
Net profit, to Appropriation Account	..	278,514	10	5					
	21·99	£383,258	5	0		21·99	£383,258	5	0

PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Distribution of profits to defence Services	49,761	7	5	Balance, brought forward	102,743	2	10
Balance	331,496	5	10	Net profit, from Profit and Loss Account	278,514	10	5
	£381,257	13	3		£381,257	13	3

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1943

<i>Liabilities</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Assets</i>	£	s.	d.
Sundry creditors	136,329	4	5	Plant, equipment, furniture, and fittings, less depreciation	2,034	18	5
Reserve for power, lighting, and heating	1,692	17	7	Stocks on hand and in transit	160,502	18	2
Profit and Loss Appropriation Account	331,496	5	10	Sundry debtors	117,287	19	0
				Investments: 3 per cent. New Zealand Government stock, 1945	15,000	0	0
				Cash at bank, in hand, and in transit	174,692	12	3
	£469,518	7	10		£469,518	7	10

J. H. SLATER, Secretary, Canteen Board.

I hereby certify that the Trading, Profit and Loss, and Appropriation Accounts and the Balance-sheet have been duly examined and compared with the relative books and documents submitted for audit, and correctly state the position as disclosed thereby.—CYRIL G. COLLINS, Controller and Auditor-General.

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