

WW 2: The Women's War

While it has been possible to individualise war experiences of men, it proved more difficult for the women in our families. It was also hard to decide which generation of women to individualise, because women of all ages bore the responsibility for

By December 1941, thirty per cent of the male population aged between eighteen and forty-five was in the armed services. At this time, the total population of New Zealand was about one million, six hundred and thirty thousand.¹ Although we normally equate the war with battles and fighting, there is a good argument that it was won on the ground in New Zealand by the women who not only kept the home fires burning but also maintained the country's overall economy.

maintaining homes and farms, raising children, and assuming previously unfamiliar roles in employment. While employment and the continuation of essential industries may have led to exciting opportunities to move away from home and some measure of independence for young single women (a state previously only achieved following marriage), for most married and/or older women, the war was notable for its years of hard drudgery.

For six years and more, lives were inconvenienced by rationing of petrol, food and clothing. There were shortages of power, food and coal (used as a source of heating and to fuel coal range stoves for cooking); restrictions on lighting, train services and long

distance travel; the cessation of home deliveries of bread and other products; and blackout regulations.



Figure 1 Landgirl from Te Papa



Figure 2
Digging
Trenches,
Alexander
Turnbull
Tapuhi
collection

lot of jobs previously undertaken by men, also the Air Force, Army and Europe and the Pacific. in September 1939, the labour force was at 180,000, by December were 228,000 women on the home front and the armed forces.¹ The

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Our booklet "This is Where We Work" gives you some idea of the all-important work being carried out by the women and girls who are making munitions at the New Zealand Ford Factory; and it shows you the excellent conditions under which they are working.

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Women, in addition to taking on a served in Navy in Whereas female estimated 1943 there employed 8000 in adjacent

advertisement from 1944 is a good example of moving into non-traditional activities!²

¹ <https://digitalnz.org/stories/5cb8292d8d2a4e554e469bc4>

² Alexander Turnbull Library.

HOME AND FAMILY

In the period directly before the commencement of World War Two, New Zealand had not fully recovered from the effects of the Depression. Full employment had not been universally restored, and the philosophy of “making do” and “making ends meet” was still deeply ingrained. This ability to ensure that nothing was wasted and to make the best of



Image: Tache: Washday in the early twentieth century was arduous work (New Zealand Herald, 11 November 2001, p. E18).

what was available was to serve home managers well during the war. The workload of women at home was not eased by labour-saving technology because much of it was unknown at this time. Many areas of the country had yet to be connected to electricity, and cooking had to be done on a gas or coal range. Refrigerators, washing machines, telephones and cars were not commonly found in working class or even middle-class homes. After the war started, women not only had to manage their workload unaided, but also take on the household responsibilities traditionally undertaken by men: managing the finances, mowing lawns, maintaining a vegetable

garden, chopping firewood, and carrying in the coal, for example. “The old rigidly defined roles were no longer applicable as domestic responsibilities were widened to absorb all the tasks which men had usually accepted as their lot.”³

The shortages that were to affect everyday life for seven years began to make an impact in September 1939, with the rationing of petrol. This was followed by shortages of paper, due to interrupted importation from Scandinavia and North America, and shoppers were asked to take their own paper and bags to grocers’ and butchers’ shops. Household china, glassware and enamel products became scarce early in 1941.

³Ebbett, 1984, p.38).

In the clothing and textiles area,⁴ the importation of silk stockings ceased in 1940, a hardship more keenly felt in this era than it would be today, when very few women wore trousers and many employers insisted on the wearing of stockings in the workplace. Wool and cotton stockings were available but were considered a very inferior product to the desirable silk versions (Edmond, 1986; Taylor, 1986). Elizabeth Rylance spoke several times of the common practice among her friends of darkening the legs with tanning lotion and drawing a black line down the back of the calf to denote a stocking seam (stockings were always seamed then).

Threats & Responses

By May 1940 the Germans occupied Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, and Britain faced the direct threat of invasion. Although appalled by events on the other side of the world, New Zealanders still felt far from the danger zone. But the sense of security was short-lived. German raiders, or armed merchant cruisers, were active in New Zealand waters, laying mines and attacking Allied ships. Their targets were the vessels that sailed to or from the country, transporting troops, freight and passengers. The raiders had some success: in the second half of 1940 they sank four ships in the seas around New Zealand, with the loss of more than 50 lives.

One of the first domestic moves was to enforce a blackout. It began in coastal areas of New Zealand in February 1941. Black curtains, paper, or even paint, covered windows in most homes. Outside, street lighting was dimmed, making life difficult through the winter nights that followed.

On 7 December 1941, the tension rose dramatically. The Imperial Japanese Navy's planes bombed Pearl Harbour, an American naval base in Hawaii, killing more than 2400 people and sinking five battleships. It was an act of aggression that caused the United States to join the war, to the relief of many New Zealanders, but the Pearl Harbour attack was also unsettling.

Those who lived through that period recalled genuine fear. Speculation was rife about where the Japanese would land, and what they would do to New Zealanders. People in exposed coastal areas felt especially vulnerable. Trench digging, air raid practices and

⁴ All the material in this section on clothing is drawn from Jan Hamon,

complex emergency planning were under way in every city. Gas masks were issued. Hospitals were ready for casualties.

There was a belief that no real defence of the country would be possible. Some regarded the precautions against attack sceptically. But others remember taking them very seriously. Joyce Harrison recalled that the air raid practices in trenches at her school 'brought it home to us that something might happen to us'.

Invasion fear did not last for the entire war, as two crucial events brought some relief to New Zealanders. In May 1942, the United States Navy got the upper hand in the Battle of the Coral Sea, turning back Japanese forces attempting to seize Port Moresby in New Guinea. The following month, in the Battle of Midway – named after an island in the Central Pacific – further American success and turned the tide in the Allies' favour. United States forces destroyed four of Japan's aircraft carriers and the 'cream of the Japanese naval air crews'.

Petrol rationing

Rationing of essential goods began early in the war, and books of coupons for rationed goods became common possessions. The first place consumers felt the pinch was at the petrol pump, following government fears that disruption to shipping would block supplies of 'motor spirits'. Private motorists were hardest hit. At the beginning of 1940, the limit on petrol was 8 to 12 gallons (36 to 54 litres) a month, depending on the size of the car. By 1942, this amount looked generous, when the most petrol a private motorist could buy in a month was just 2 gallons (9 litres). It remained at this level for most of the war.

Car owners had no choice but to accept restrictions on their mobility. Some, like the Maclean family in Paraparaumu, abandoned their vehicles for the duration. They parked their Dodge under a tree, and reverted to horse and cart for transport on the farm until the end of the war. Those who kept their cars running were on the alert for fuel. When Japan joined the conflict, motorists rushed to use all their petrol coupons. In Wellington:

Califonts [water heaters], kegs, kettles, demijohns [large bottles], vinegar and whiskey bottles, tins of all descriptions, and even a new dustbin were produced to hold petrol as all available coupons were handed in.

The rationing of petrol outlasted the war and did not come to an end until May 1950.

Although petrol rationing was undoubtedly a problem for farmers like the Kirks and the Allans and for those living outside the main cities, for at least some of our family, it would have been irrelevant. None of the Rylances drove a car, nor did the younger Dicks.

Because of the petrol shortage, the attack on Pearl Harbour also resulted in good business for bicycle dealers. By midday on 16 December 1941, in the capital and the Hutt Valley:

it was a matter of extreme difficulty to purchase either a man's or a woman's bicycle. One determined suburbanite visited five shops in Lower Hutt and Petone before he succeeded in making a purchase, and he was told it was the last machine in that shop.

Rubber was also scarce and after Malaya and the Dutch East Indies fell to the Japanese, at the beginning of 1942, the shortage became critical, with 90% of the world's supply of raw rubber in enemy hands. Tyres were reserved for priority use, and private motorists were again the last in the queue. The rubber shortage affected other daily necessities too. To get a pair of gumboots, dairy farmers had to prove they owned at least 12 cows.

Rationing of other consumer goods

New Zealand's first ration books (petrol coupons were always separate) were issued in

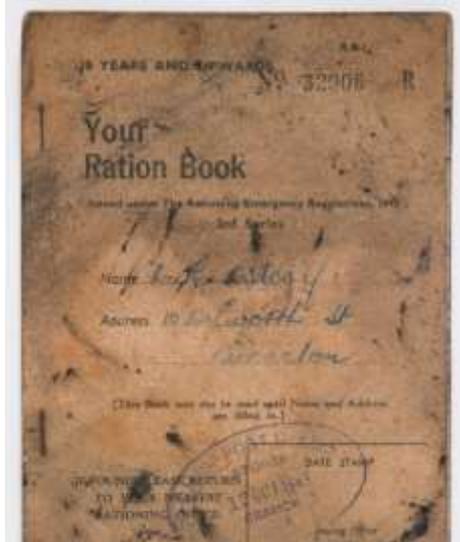


Figure 3 Sample Ration Book - Te Papa

April 1942, and on 27 April rationing began, with sugar and stockings as the first items. Every woman over 16 years was entitled, once in three months, to one pair of fully fashioned stockings, of silk, art silk or cotton (Taylor, 1986, p.760).

An extensive list of items were in short supply from early 1941, including tyres, new cars, tools, plumbing fittings (including baths and sinks), cutlery, jewellery, and fancy biscuits. The demand for wool for Armed Services requirements led to a shortage of carpets, blankets, and knitting wool.

In their homes, New Zealanders also learned to do without – or at least with less. From early in 1942, the regular cuppa had to be reconsidered, as first sugar and then tea were rationed.

Keeping the people of Britain fed, with dairy and meat exports, was the impetus for a further round of rationing towards the end of 1943. From October, each person was allowed 8 ounces (225 grams) of butter a week. Despite this being four times the British ration, there was grumbling. West Coast timber workers wanted twice the rationed amount of butter, and threatened to strike for it. They got their way, and within a fortnight an extra 4 ounces a week was granted to them and their coalmining counterparts.

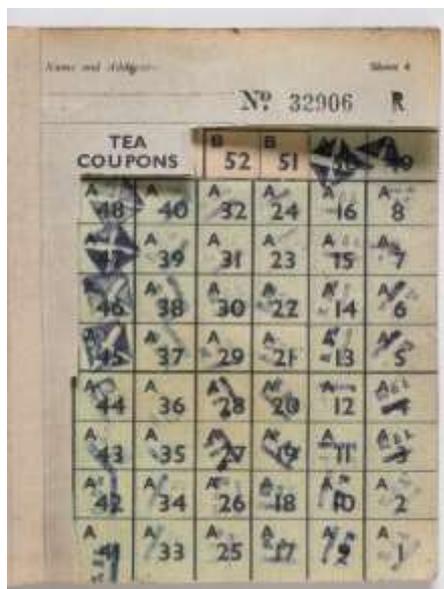


Figure 4 Rationbook sample page: Te Papa

In 1942, new telephone installations were banned and the manufacture of some electrical items for civilian use was prohibited: radios, water heaters, irons, kettles and toasters. The most crucial shortage of 1942 was rubber, affecting the availability of tyres, gumboots and hot water bottles. Petrol and tyres were such valuable commodities that, in order to conserve stocks, home delivery of bread, meat, drapery and laundry was stopped, and the delivery of groceries was severely curtailed. For most women, these commodities now had to be collected, often on foot or by bicycle. The shortage of rubber led to the

disappearance of elastic from the shops and from many garments. Underwear, women's suspenders, and men's braces and sock suspenders were affected by the scarcity of supply.

Shopping at the butcher's came under government control from March 1944. Shiploads of meat were steaming to the people of Britain at the same time as United States forces in the Pacific needed feeding. Again, to keep up with these essential supplies, New Zealanders were rationed to about 2½ pounds (just over 1 kg) per week – two-thirds of what they were used to.

The Americans in the Pacific also put a strain on vegetable supply. In the last four years of the war, they ate 137,000 tons of New Zealand vegetables. Mass production was

increased and the Department of Agriculture did its bit too, starting a Services Vegetable Production Scheme. Farmland was taken over to grow potatoes and greens. Dehydration plants were built and canning factories and packing sheds extended. In communities and back gardens, growing vegetables became part of the war effort. In 1943, the Dig for Victory campaign persuaded citizens to get their hands dirty. Radio stations offered practical advice on vegetable gardening and there were record sales of seeds and seedlings.

Clothing & Rationing

The rationing of clothes began on 28 May 1942 and persisted until the end of 1947. Adults and children were issued with books of coupons that could be exchanged for clothing, footwear, and materials. The allowance per person per year was fifty-two coupons; a new winter coat could use up twelve coupons of the allowance. Making do with the number of coupons allocated was not always the issue; often the goods were not available for purchase anyway (Ebbett, 1984; Taylor, 1986).

As with tea and sugar, clothing coupons had to be cut from books by retailers, except for mail orders where they had to be fastened to slips showing the name and address of the sender. The numbers needed for each garment were published in trade lists, in newspapers, and on cardboard envelopes sold to protect the fragile ration books. As examples, from the yearly 52 coupons, a man's three-piece suit took 16, a raincoat 8, woollen slacks 5, a jersey or cardigan 3, a shirt or blouse 2, pyjamas or a nightdress, 4. A woman's two-piece suit took 11, a fur coat 15 and a dress 4 (Taylor, 1986, p.792).

The number of coupons required for dress fabric was calculated in relation to the number and type of garments that the fabric would produce. Unrationed textiles included butter muslin, curtain net, curtains, canvas, and furnishing fabrics, and it was not unusual to see some of these fabrics made up into dresses or housecoats. Knitting wool was originally covered by clothing coupons but, by 1943, separate coupons were introduced specifically for the purchase of wool (Nicholson, 1998; Taylor, 1986).

Several of the dressmakers interviewed have confirmed that there were shortages of fabrics during the war. PF said, *"Yes, it was terrible to get materials. You had coupons and your friends gave you coupons if you were getting married so you could get enough for a dress"* (PF, personal interview, April 2003). PF also recalled that the war was responsible

for creating a fashion for fabric or fabric covered hats. New felt hoods or straws were scarce, but a hat could be made from small pieces of fabric or an old hat remodelled by covering it with fabric.

Women used to elasticated undergarments were forced to find ways to prolong the lives of their corsets. *The New Zealand Woman's Weekly* assisted with an article entitled "Curing A Tired Corset", which gave advice on how to mend splits in elasticated girdles and how to cope with corset bones or busks (*New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 25 November 1943, p.20).

Wedding garments or fabrics seemed to be particularly difficult to obtain or allow for under the rationing system. Dressmaker DB recalls that she was delighted when friends of her husband, owners of a drapery store, gave them the cream satin for her wedding gown and enough green sprigged organza for the bridesmaids' dresses, as a wedding gift. This saved their precious clothing coupons, although it did not please the bride's sister, one of the bridesmaids, because she had a strong aversion to wearing green (DB, personal interview, May 2003). DS spoke of her good fortune in being in Evans' drapery shop in Wellington just at the time when a bolt of white brocade was delivered.

I had been looking for material for my bridal dress and I was just lucky to be in the shop at that time, and I bought what I wanted then and it was 1/6 a yard. After the war, gradually they started to bring in more. There was always a certain amount in the shops but anything really special, like me, you were just lucky to strike (DS, personal interview, November 1999).

JM made her own wedding dress of fine wool.

It wasn't a real bridal frock because it was during the war and people were very conscious of the fact that you didn't spend money unwisely. But it was a beautiful frock and I loved it. It was a beautiful blue (JM, personal interview, June 2000).

Some brides did not attempt anything like a wedding dress, but were instead married in a two-piece costume with a hat or, for those in the services, in uniform.

Mothers struggling to clothe growing children received some reprieve in January 1943, when an additional twenty-six clothing coupons were issued for every child from the ages of five to seventeen. The education of children continued during the war, despite the potential disruptions resulting from a shortage of teachers, equipment, and school buildings. The school milk scheme, started in 1937 to give each child free milk during the morning break, was continued during the war. Free apples were also distributed from 1941 to 1945, because the country was unable to export them as usual, due to a lack of refrigerated shipping (Taylor, 1986, p.1125; Keith, 2001, p.224).

The *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* rose to the challenge and published hints and provided patterns to assist home dressmakers to recycle clothing (Lynch, 2004, p. 84)



Magazines were indeed full of advice to women to assist them to cope with their new responsibilities and with the ensuing shortages resulting from the state of war. A 1940 issue of the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, in its editorial entitled "Battle Behind The Front Line", reminded women that, "everything is valuable in a time of emergency." Women were urged to save newspapers, metal products, rags, bones, soap scraps and candle ends (*New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 18 July 1940, p.1). In the same issue, the "Here's A Hint" column (p.25) suggested making mittens from discarded men's socks, "in these wool hungry days." By

1941, the column had become "War Economy Hints" and readers were advised how to re-sole slippers with a piece of linoleum and how to make cheap curtains from bed sheets (*New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 4 December 1941, pp.30-31). The *New Zealand Home Journal*, (10 June 1943, pp.34-35), included instructions on how to unpick men's white flannel trousers and re-make them into working clothes for women or into a child's coat, followed by more tips for unpicking and re-working old garments to re-use the fabric.

Regulations affecting the design of clothing, intended to reduce the amount of fabric used and the time and skill required to produce garments, were introduced in October

1942. Manufacturers had pre-empted this approximately two months earlier, electing to simplify styles in women's and children's clothing voluntarily, in the hope that regulation could be avoided. It appears that women may have been expecting curtailment of sartorial excesses for some time. The writer of the social column in the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* signalled this in mid-1940, commenting:

If the new clothes people were wearing at the Wellington Racing Club's winter meeting at Trentham last week really were bought for "the duration", as I heard so many affirm, then I must approve their choice. "Plain and good" describes the majority (New Zealand Woman's Weekly, 18 July 1940, p.15).

However, the government decided that more stringent controls than self-regulation were necessary. The regulations of October 1942 sought economies in the manufacture of outer garments for everyone except brides, pregnant women, and children under eleven. Clothing for women and girls could not have capes, hoods, double yokes, full sleeves cuffs or trouser pleats. Men's double breasted jackets were banned.

Suits could only be two-piece and dresses could not have matching coats, jackets or boleros. Restrictions were applied to the production of full-length dresses and beachwear. Skirt lengths were regulated to finish a specified distance from the floor and jackets must finish no more than ten and a half inches below the waist (Taylor, 1986, p.836).

Women appeared to accept these dictates without protest. A Wellington draper suggested that this was because the regulations did not order skirts shorter than the current fashion and that business was likely to be diverted from clothing manufacturers to drapers, for women would want to make what they could not buy (*Dominion*, 31 October 1942, p.8).

Taylor (1986, p.836), reports that New Zealand men, like their counterparts in Britain, were the source of the greatest protest. Regulations applied to menswear did not allow for the addition of cuffs on trousers, a very unpopular move. Also, for men and boys, coats, jackets and waistcoats could not be double-breasted. Any unnecessary trims such as belts, pleats, pockets over a certain number, yokes, and buttons applied purely for

decoration were not permitted. Trousers could not have pleats, extended waistbands, or ankle widths exceeding twenty inches.

The main feature of womenswear throughout the war appeared to be “simplification without meagreness” (Taylor, 1986, p.840). Taylor reports that many day clothes shown in advertisements display few signs of wartime austerity. Patterns featured in publications such as the *New Zealand Woman’s Weekly* and the *New Zealand Home Journal* support this.

Dresses incorporated pintuck and embroidery trims, pleated or gored skirts, shirtwaists with buttoned fronts, crossover bodices or bodices finished with appliqué or braid; all options that did not restrict design.

There was more variety available than the advertisements might indicate: not all dresses were advertised, and for dressmakers and women who made their own clothes there was no limitation in style. There may not have been the variety of rich and colourful material that there used to be, but attractive materials were still displayed and could be made up at home. There was something of a cult in brightening up dresses with new belts, embroidery, changes of collar. Both home and professional dressmakers were making smart new clothes out of old ones, cutting up, turning, dyeing and joining new material to old. Home dressmaking classes, with special advice on using remnants, were popular (Taylor, 1986, pp.840-841). Even underwear was made at home.

It was in this environment that people such as May Jolly, and Doreen Dick and her friends flourished. Elizabeth Rylance was still at school during the war but during her marriage (after having completed a home science qualification at university), made all her own clothes and those of her three daughters.

Labour Control

The government grip on civilians' lives tightened further at the beginning of 1942.⁵ Thousands of men leaving for war had left job vacancies in factories and other workplaces. To fill the gaps, 'manpower' regulations came into force. Now workers could

⁵ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/second-world-war-at-home/war-work>

be directed where they were needed. Compulsory registers were set up and in 22 centres throughout the country, the Manpower Office became the hub of working life.

At first, all men between 18 and 49 had to get their names on a register. As jobs in essential industries grew, the net was cast wider, and over the next two years its scope expanded to men up to 70 years old. When the regulations were introduced, there was 'some hesitation' in making women register for manpower jobs. Only those who were 20 or 21 had to sign up. By 1944, this reluctance had disappeared, and all women between 18 and 40 were liable to work where directed.

Women who cared for children under 16 were exempt, but they were encouraged to volunteer if they could arrange childcare. For a while, married women were exempt too, but by the end of 1943, a wedding ring made no difference to the local manpower officer.

In the 1940s, making women do any sort of paid work was a break with tradition. It went against the belief that 'women's lives were best focused on private family and domestic matters'. By the end of the war, though, 38,000 women had been sent to work where the government directed. They were invariably paid less than men. In October 1942, minimum weekly rates were fixed at £5 10s for men and £2 17s 6d for women. There was little resistance to the inequality. Sheila Smith worked in an orchard for 'about half' the rate of the men alongside her but felt there was nothing she could do about it.

That's the way it was. Because you were a woman you got much less than the men. That was the accepted thing, that you are a woman and you just held out your hand and got your pay packet and were grateful for it.

By the end of the war, more than 176,000 people were working where the manpower officer had sent them. The government retained its right to direct people into jobs until June 1946, nine months after the war ended.

Communications

WW2 was the 'radio war', with news provided directly from the BBC in London on the shortwave service. 'For the first time, New Zealanders were hearing about a war at first hand.' Many people listened to the BBC bulletins at the time of broadcast, on shortwave radio, while local YA stations recorded the bulletins for those without shortwave radio sets, and either rebroadcast or transcribed them, depending on the sound quality. Local

news and other broadcast programmes were subject to strict controls, in case they contained hidden messages for the enemy. Radio censorship was so tight that from December 1940, even weather forecasts were banned until the end of the war.⁶

The only personal contact possible with New Zealand men and women overseas was through letters. Again, censorship interrupted any intimacy, but the mail still provided a vital link. The army recognised its effect on the morale of troops, and the head of the Postal Corps was told, 'in words that were not meant to be entirely jocular, that he was the only officer in 2NZEF who could at all times have all the men he wanted'. At home, mail was equally important for morale.

Letters were not the only items filling the overseas mail bags. New Zealanders were aware that their 'boys' were living a relatively Spartan life in the forces. Within a month of war being declared, the government set up the National Patriotic Fund Board to co-ordinate efforts for welfare of those serving overseas and at home. A complimentary booklet, *Comforts for the men in the armed forces*, gave advice about what to send, and how to wrap goods, along with a few knitting patterns and recipes. This was yet another thing for women to do! The government provided some money, but provincial councils were also expected to raise funds. Local committees ran concerts and carnivals and, in a precursor to the telethon, radio got in on the act when 17 stations in the ZB network ran a telephone appeal that netted a massive £75,000 (equivalent to more than \$6 million in 2011 money).

Lingering impact

Before leaving the subject of war and women, it is worth noting that of all the Commonwealth countries, New Zealand lost the highest proportion of its population in the Second World War. The chilling casualty figures speak for themselves: nearly 12,000 dead, more than 15,000 wounded and 8000 captured.⁷

Those at home usually learned the fateful news by telegram, often hand delivered. But communication was not always smooth. Immediately after the campaigns in Greece and Crete, the first battles in which New Zealand troops had fought, 2NZEF had some administrative problems. Lost records meant that there were delays before casualties

⁶ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/second-world-war-at-home/challenges>

⁷ Op cit

could be confirmed. As a result, airmail letters of condolence from mates reached next of kin before the official telegram. After this, the army ruled that condolence letters were not to be written until the casualty appeared in the *NZEF Times*, the troops' newspaper. It is, however, 'doubtful the order was ever observed'.

Unlike Australia, New Zealand did not bring its troops home from Europe after the Pacific war began. New echelons of troops were recruited to fight in the Pacific. Accordingly, when the war in Europe ended, there were still 58,000 Kiwis serving overseas, most with 2NZEF in Italy and the Middle East. Over the following months, families and friends waited patiently as troopships brought them home.

For the engaged and married, post-war reunions were often followed by times of adjustment. Although there was a record number of marriages in 1946, the same year also saw a peak in the figures for divorce – nearly double the rate for 1940. There had to be stated grounds for divorce, and in 1947 and 1948, the most common one cited, by both men and women, was 'separation for more than three years'.⁸ Alongside that, in 1947 there was a record number of nearly 50,000 births registered!

Even those who remained married after their husbands returned from war found there were changes to absorb. Other families endured long-term consequences of the conflict. Of the men who came home, 15,000 returned with physical injuries. And there were also those less visibly damaged. In the 1940s, the term used to describe psychological and psychiatric war wounds was 'anxiety neurosis'. Today, some of the men labelled in this way would be said to have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The symptoms of PTSD can include nightmares and flashbacks, irritability and outbursts of anger, emotional withdrawal and depression. There was more understanding of psychological damage by authorities than had been the case after WW1 (when "shell shock" was conflated with cowardice and no-one was prepared to admit that it was an issue). By December 1949, the War Pensions Branch had a total of nearly 7600 'neurosis' cases, placing, 'a great strain ... on the shoulders of the doctors'. Nevertheless, psychological damage was often very difficult for friends and family to manage. These people had never lived or served in a war zone, and could have little comprehension of the traumas faced by their husbands and fathers. Philip Rylance and Eric Duncan Sargison were both victims of the war. In the

⁸<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/second-world-war-at-home/back-home>

1980s, Patricia Rylance gave her mother, Elizabeth, an academic article about psychological damage and stress among returned soldiers, which she read it with interest. She said that she wished she had known more about the traumas of war at the time and had been given more understanding of how to cope with the impacts of a severely traumatic and damaging experience.

DRAFT