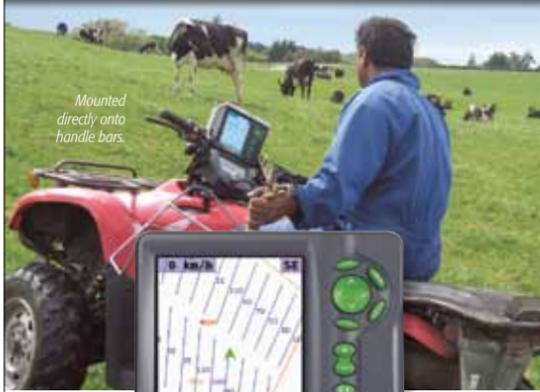


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# 28 MACHINERY & PRODUCTS

## ‘Too stupid to know they were beaten’

### » NEIL KEATING

‘WISH ME luck as you wave me goodbye’ go the words of the old song.

South Coast Productions’ DVD offerings for this holiday season include *Wish Me Luck: New Zealand Families at War*, a chron-

ological account of men who fought and women who worked and waited. Lots of archive film and many interviews, narration by the familiar voice (Radio NZ) of Wayne Mowat.

The heading above is a jest by Sgt Eric ‘The Ferret’

Batchelor, DCM and bar, who attributes Kiwis’ soldiering prowess to their dogged ability to keep going with skill, courage and good humour – always a help in a tight spot.

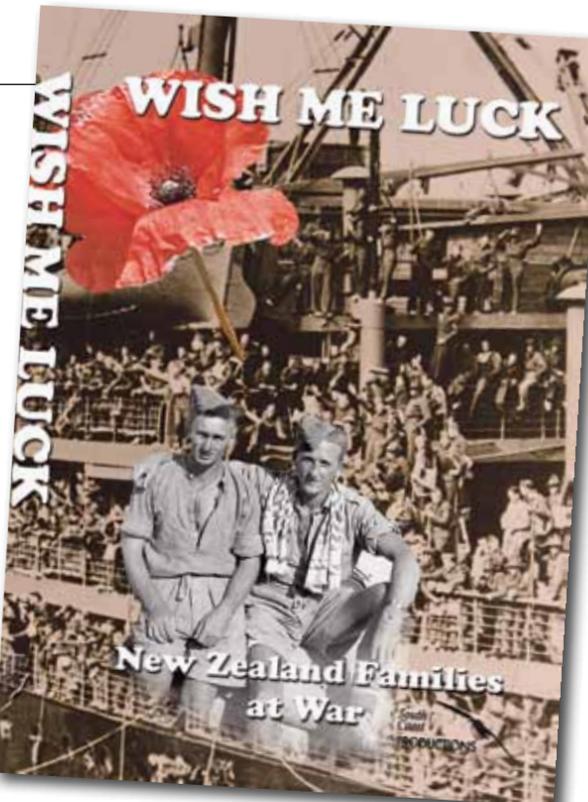
For example, South-lander Pat Hamlin, prisoner of the Italians, noticing a chicken scratching near the compound wire, grabbed and killed it and sought to hide it under his greatcoat – but they spotted him. Off to the guard house!

“What were you doing with that chicken?”

“Well sir, the chicken attacked me, so I killed it in self defence.”

Even better, the captors sent him and a mate to fetch ‘vino’ in a big flagon. On the return trip they both decided they felt like a pee. Yes, you guessed it.... “The Italians will esping better tonight,” they quipped.

Hamlin had earlier (during the fighting) been treated to some German



humour, albeit grim. His truck was buzzed by a German fighter plane. “Don’t worry, he’ll be out of ammo by now,” he assured the others. Sure enough, on a second fly-over the German fired nothing – he simply dropped a toilet roll.

But this is, of course, an account of pursuing determined enemies with fire and steel, destruction and death.

Pat Harris, merchant seaman gunner recounts the terrors of sinking by bomb and torpedo. Especially demanding were the convoys to Murmansk, Russia. He was dragged from the sea, frozen and injured, by a German

destroyer crew, who treated them well.

Less chivalrous were the Russian allies Harris’s convoy was supplying. In a hushed-up episode, the Russians refused to allow British doctors to treat British naval wounded at Murmansk.

They relented only in the face of threats by British destroyer captains to turn their guns on the Russians’ shore establishment. They were, says Harris, a less-than-ideal ally.

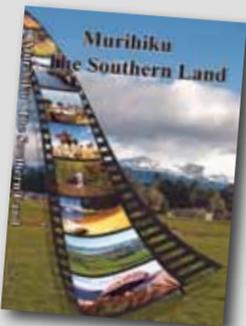
DVD (55 mins) by South Coast Productions, PO Box 58, River-ton. Tel. 03 234 8109. da.southcoast@xtra.co.nz  
www.videosouth.com

## Beauty of the South

MURIHIKU, THE Southern Land, is another DVD new from South Coast, showing the splendours of Fiordland, the South-land plains, the Catlin mountains and Stewart Island by means of aerial film, set to music.

Here are the region’s people in the landscapes they know as home.

Here is the South as we seldom see it.



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## Landini to Agtek

TAURANGA MACHINERY company Agtek Ltd has been appointed distributor of the Italian tractor brand Landini, made by Argo Tractors SpA.

Effective Jan 1, the deal includes after-sale and spare parts service for McCormick products, Agtek becoming a “dedicated reference point for McCormick end users,” says Argo Tractors export sales director Mario Ribolla.

“We are extremely satisfied.... New Zealand is a most important market to our company and finding a company with the same ethos as our own is a strategic result to increase Lan-

dini market share.” Argo Tractors has been in business at least 120 years, selling here at least 30 years.

Agtek will sell Landini tractors 25-225hp – wheeled, crawler, isodiametric and specialised tractors for vineyards or orchards.

Agtek managing director Gayne Carroll, “instrumental in the original success of Landini in New Zealand, knows the product well and has a strong passion for it,” Ribolla says. “The opportunity... was a natural progression for both companies.”

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