

# Department of the Army, Provost Marshal General (DAPM), Report on the Disturbance at Allied Services, Club, April 5, 1943

Archives New Zealand

Southern Cross Bldg.  
Brandon Street, Wgtn.  
5th April 43.

Memorandum for:-

Hedd Quarters,  
Central Military District,  
Buckle Street,  
Wellington.

Re: Report on Disturbance at Allied Services Club,  
Manner Street, on the 3rd April 1943.

On Saturday evening, the 3rd inst, at approximately 1800 hrs, a general disturbance took place in the vicinity of the Allied Services Club, Manner Street.

The disturbance was caused in the first place by four or five Merchant Seamen who had been drinking, and they made no secret of their intention to "clean up" the visiting servicemen. Naturally, this was resented and led to a series of fights, in which U.S. Marines and Sailors, Merchant Seamen, N.Z. Forces (Army and Air) became entangled. The Civil and Military Police no sooner got one disturbance settled, than it broke out in a fresh place. It was finally decided to close the above Club. Some difficulty was experienced in this, but eventually at approximately 2000 hours the Club was cleared and barricaded on the inside. The melee continued at intervals nearly all over the Town and it was not until the Leave trains began to depart that some semblance of quiet was restored.

Information reached this Office during the day that there was likely to be trouble abroad on Saturday night and in consequence, the whole Staff of Military Police were on duty. Damage to furniture etc in the Club was caused, but to what extent is not known.

It is considered appropriate at this juncture to mention the conduct of the above Club.

It is essentially a rendezvous for U.S. Servicemen and the N.Z. Forces get a very "thin hearing" from those in charge. For too much distinction is shown between the different Forces by those in charge of the Club. Visiting servicemen seem to be able to conduct themselves as they choose and a considerable amount of drink is carried into the Club and consumed in the ablution rooms downstairs.

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# Department of the Army, Provost Marshal General (DAPM), Report on the Disturbance at Allied Services, Club, April 5, 1943 cont.

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From reports received and also from personal observations, it is very respectfully suggested that the control of the Club leaves a good deal to be desired.

The outbreak on Saturday night last is not likely to recede, but will flare up again at any moment and in view of this, it is earnestly requested that this Unit be brought up to its full strength by the transfer of a least twelve (12) more personnel.

Forwarded for information please.

*[Signature]*  
Major,  
D.A.P.M.  
Central Military District.

Within City of Wellington	Off.	O/R
Actual strength	2	20.
On duty on Sat night instructs	2	8
in Office 1 Door 1 Clerk		2

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