

HE WILL BE FINE!

It was a cold cloudy day in Auckland, 1941. The leaves swayed on the trees as he walked down the footpath towards the Recruitment station. He opened the door and sat down on the warm chair and waited for his name to be called. After a few minutes.

"Richard Middleton" came a loud voice from behind the desk. He sat up and walked to the desk.

"Sign here" demanded the man. He grabbed the pen and wrote his signature shakily.

When he got home Richard called in his mother Mary and his father William to tell them the news.

"What's wrong my dear," asked Mary.

"I... I... I've just been recruited for war" he replied with a croaky voice. William gave him a big hug and said

"Oh, good job son."

Mary burst out crying, Richard started crying too because he didn't know what to do.

"Why are you crying son," asked William.

"Because I don't want to go" cried Richard.

"Yeah if he doesn't want to go then he's not going!" said his mum as she raised her voice.

"Of course he has to go, Mary, it will be fine."

After about an hour everyone had settled down and William and Mary were talking about how Mary was feeling.

"Don't be so sad he will be fine" said William.

"No he won't" cried Mary.

"Look I know that your brothers sadly didn't return home from the war, but how about thinking on the bright side, like I went to war and look at me I'm perfectly fine, well apart from the few scratches and broken bones that I had, I'm fine."

"I'm just scared he won't come back and I will never see him again," She explained.

"It will be fine you just need to think on the bright side," William stated.

It was a few days later and Mary was writing letters to family and friends to invite them over for a goodbye party, even though he wasn't leaving until first thing Monday morning next week. It was Friday morning and

Mary had just finished writing and sending the letters to family and friends, while Richard was getting his bags and starting to pack. Mary saw that he was packing and went to his room and saw that Richard was crying.

"What is wrong my dear," asked Mary.

"I don't want to leave" stated Richard.

"I don't want you to leave either," replied Mary as she started to unpack all of Richards clothes.

"What are you doing," asked Richard.

"I'm unpacking your stuff because like I said you are not going!" explained Mary.

"Mum I know you don't want me to go, and I don't want to go but I have to go," stated Richard.

"No you don't. They are not the boss of you, I am and I said you are not going" she demanded.

"Oh mum, I don't know what I'm going to do" worried Richard as his father walked in the door.

"What's wrong" he questioned.

"Richard and I don't want Richard to go to war," Mary said.

"Well, I need to talk to you both. If Richard doesn't go to war then he will have to go to jail. Now I know you are both scared about Richard not returning but you have to think about the good stuff and not about the bad stuff, and anyway I went to war and I'm still here and Richard will be perfectly fine. There is nothing to worry about." he explained. They gave each other a hug and then went on with their day.

It was a beautiful sunny morning on Sunday and Mary was getting some food ready for the goodbye party. The party finished at around about eight o'clock and once the party was over and everyone from the party had said goodbye to Richard, Mary and Richard were talking.

"I feel a lot better about you leaving after what your father said. These past few days I have been thinking about all of the good things about you leaving and it has changed my mind. I'm still going to miss you a lot but I'm not worrying about the bad stuff. How are you feeling?" stated Mary.

"It's funny you say that I am feeling a little bit better as well, but probably not as much as you but I'm trying to think positive," he said.

"Well, that's good to hear. Now get some sleep you've got to get up early tomorrow."

It was Monday morning at five-thirty and Richard was getting his bags from his room and taking them to the door. Once he had finished putting his bags at the door, he went to the kitchen to eat some breakfast with Mary and William. After Richard had finished his breakfast he had heard a beep of a horn.

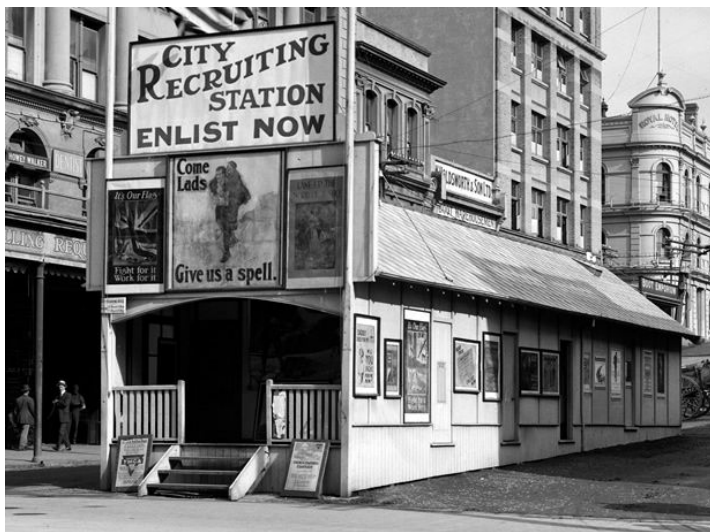
"That must be the truck," said William. William and Mary gave Richard hugs and kisses goodbye. The man in the truck chucked Richard's stuff in the back. Richard got in the truck and as the truck drove off he waved goodbye. Mary started crying and so did William.

"Oh, goodness I'm so excited!" Mary said with excitement.

"Me too!" replied William.

It was four years later and it was the day Richard was to return home. Mary, William and some of Richard's other family and friends were all waiting excitedly. They were getting the decorations and presents all set up when they heard a loud truck. Mary and William ran to the door and what they saw made them cry it, was Richard they were so excited to see them. Richard was happy to be back home safely with his family.

Written by Sienna McGinity



A Recruitment station in Auckland.

