

The Local Brothers.

BANG! The door to the bunker was flung open. Bright lights and deep voices were roaming around the place. The brothers were freaked out.

"I can hear the police" whispered Peter.

"Stay quiet," urged William.

"Where are they!" Yelled one of the policemen.

They were in some old potato sacks and the police were getting very close to where the brothers were hiding.

"They aren't here," lied their mother Mary.

"You're lucky," snarled the men. "But we will be watching your farm".

"Man, that was very very close". Said the boys in fright.

It is January 1939 and the war has just broken out. Two of the local Darfield farmers, Peter and William are in the middle of harvest. They have just got the news that war has broken out. They are quite scared and both hate the thought of war as their father Douglas had been killed in World War 1.

As soon as the war started the New Zealand defence force needed to set up a Home Guard in case of an attack from the Japanese, who looked to have been spying on some places in New Zealand. The brothers were very reluctant to join and both hated guns. Both of them wouldn't pick up a gun and hated anything to do with killing people. So later that night the boys and their mother set up a plan to hide them away from the police who would be forcing people to go in the Home Guard, which the boys didn't want. One of the main reasons that the police would be visiting their farm is because of the boy's age, they were both 17 and the local police were very confident that they would get all young boys around the area and put them in the Home Guard. The plan for the boys was that they would hide in the basement under the house. They would also kit it out with all the stuff that they would need to survive for a while if the police were near the farm. Mary made it that the entrance to the bunker was through her bedroom so that if Mary was in her room then the police wouldn't be so suspicious.

That night they were all having a wee chat about things when suddenly someone started knocking on the door. The boy's tiptoed down the hallway to Mary's bedroom where they slid into the bunker.

"Hello there Mary." Greeted the strange men.

"Hi," Mary said quite stunned.

"We are looking for two boys who I think are your sons."

"Mine?" Exclaimed Mary.

"Yes,"

“My sons died a few months ago.”

There were faint crying sounds in the distance.

“Sorry, but we have to search your house in case you are pulling something on us.”

Ordered the men.

“What! I'm honestly not.” Screeched Mary.

The whole house was searched and when the strange men were about to leave, they asked if there was a basement in the house, which triggered Mary. She said “yes”, as one of the men was very threatening. They walked into Mary's bedroom and opened the basement door, they turned their bright torches on and started to get very angry as they couldn't find the boys. They started yelling, and after a while, they started kicking stuff so desperate to find them. Luckily the boys were hiding in some old potato sacks. The police got very close but they missed the sacks. The brothers were frozen in fright.

“Where are they?!” Yelled the policemen.

“They aren't here,” insisted their mother Mary.

The men then walked out of the basement with a mighty slam and walked to the main door. They threatened Mary lots and finally left without saying thank you and said that they would be watching the place for any signs of the boys.

“You're lucky.” Yelled the Policemen.

“Man, that was very very close”, whispered the boys.

They came out of the bunker and walked to the living room where Mary looked pretty scared.

“Who were those men?” asked Peter.

“They were the two head policemen in New Zealand.” Exclaimed Mary.

“Oh gosh”, that could have been very bad.” Said William.

There were still a few more problems around the place that really needed talking about. The boys were meant to be running the farm. But with the police watching the farm it will be almost impossible to do anything. That's when another plan came in. Mary was going to dress the boys up as hired workers and hope that the police wouldn't find out about the plan. Then the boys and their mother sat down and talked about the plans.

The next morning came and as the sun rose Mary started to dress the boys up. Mary was very good with makeup and costumes, she made the boys look like completely new people. The brothers were quite scared but really wanted to see what was happening around the farm and what the police were doing.

Peter walked out to the gate to get the mail when he saw the pile of policemen just waiting for something to happen. He casually walked past the men and they instantly pointed their guns and asked for his name.

“My name is Ben “groaned Peter.”

“Ok, then what are you doing here?” Questioned the policemen.

“I am a new worker on this farm,” Said Peter.

“Ok then.” exclaimed the policemen.

Somehow the police didn't figure out about the plans and the boys just carried on with work like nothing had happened. The war ended and the police never found out the plans and how the boys were dressed up as workers. They all lived a good life and carried on running the farm.



The Katikati Home guard 1942.

Written by Harry Judd.