

New Boiler For Calcaterra Is Installed

The boiler which burst on the weather picket ship U.S.S. Calcaterra while the vessel was on ocean station was successfully extracted this morning and a new boiler manoeuvred through a hole cut in the ship's port side.

The new boiler, sent from the United States, is one of two which supplies heating to the ship.

The only problem in the operation was that the electric control box attached to the new boiler had to be removed temporarily because the hole in the vessel proved too small.

The Calcaterra is the third Operation Deepfreeze picket ship to have boiler trouble.

The Dunedin concern, Sims Engineering Ltd., which repaired the U.S.S. Hissem and U.S.S. Mills, carried out the work.

A crane was used to lift both the damaged boiler and the new one. A punt, tied alongside the hole, was also used.

The weather was favourable for the operation, for had the sea been rough the work would have been held up.

The complete installation of the new boiler will take five to six days, after which the Calcaterra will move to the oil berth to begin refuelling.

General maintenance, including painting, was carried

out on the ship today in preparation for an "open house" during the in-port period.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Sixty crewmen from the Calcaterra have volunteered to each give a donation of blood while the ship is in Dunedin. A donation of blood from 150 of the crew is the target.

It is hoped the target will be fulfilled during this in-port period or the ship's next visit to the city.

The executive officer, Lieutenant W. Horsley, said the scheme was an idea of the crew.

The Calcaterra's captain, Lieutenant-commander W. C. Earl, has a number of duties to perform while the ship is in the city.

He will officially open the Festival Week at Balclutha which begins next Friday and will stay in the town for the functions until Sunday. He will be accompanied by 12 crewmen.



BOILER TENDER G. Connor whose prompt action saved the U.S.S. Calcaterra from possible serious damage and injury to engine-room personnel, examines the combustion chamber of the boiler which blew out when the ship was on picket duty.