

N.Z. Artillery.

Good progress has been made this year, especially by those batteries which went into camp. Shell practice was carried out while the units were in camp, with satisfactory results considering the limited training now performed.

The increased range of modern artillery makes it very difficult to obtain suitable and safe artillery ranges. It is only through the good nature and patriotism of many property-holders that artillery practice is made possible, and sooner or later it will be necessary to acquire rights over suitable areas.

The provision of more horses for this year's camps enabled batteries to perform a limited amount of tactical training and movement which had hitherto been impossible.

The pack batteries are restricted in movement through not having mule transport, which it has been impossible to provide owing to the lack of funds. Some movement with improvised transport has been practised, but such methods would be unsuitable under war conditions in almost any nature of country.

Up to the present it has not been practicable to form and equip any anti-aircraft units. Very rapid developments in anti-aircraft equipment have taken place since the war. These developments are being closely followed, and when the War Office can supply suitable equipment the formation of anti-aircraft units will be necessary.

Corps of N.Z. Engineers.

Arrangements had been made for the concentration of the Corps at Trentham for the annual continuous training, but the epidemic frustrated these arrangements. This was very unfortunate indeed, as a special course for officers and non-commissioned officers of the Corps previously conducted proved very successful and augured well for the bigger camp to follow.

N.Z. Corps of Signals.

This Corps has been considerably below establishment for some time, but steps have now been taken to bring it up to strength. The training programme specially drawn up for this service, made possible by the cordial co-operation of the Post and Telegraph Department, has given very satisfactory results. The officers and non-commissioned officers underwent a fourteen days' special course of instruction at the beginning of the training-year, which had a very beneficial effect on the efficiency of the Corps.

N.Z. Infantry.

Many of the Infantry battalions are over strength, while others are below establishment. Five battalions were fortunate in getting their annual camps over before the epidemic intervened. The Infantry, particularly, requires the opportunity for collective and continuous training to sustain interest and enable progress to be made. In the case of those battalions that went into camp the attendance was splendid, the training thorough, and the general all-round improvement in such a short time very noticeable. The keenness of many men is indicated by the long journeys travelled to training-centres, and the performance of extra training in camp, without pay, to make up drills and parades which could not be held throughout the year. The temporary cessation of training interfered considerably with the weapon training of most units, but taking this into consideration the results obtained were satisfactory.

N.Z. Army Service Corps.

There has been a marked improvement in this Corps during the year, due largely to the special courses of instruction held for officers and non-commissioned officers, and to the practical training and increased responsibilities devolving upon all ranks in connection with the supply and transport duties in the various unit camps. Such duties, performed with enthusiasm, were of great service to the units in camp, and very helpful to the N.Z. Permanent Army Service Corps.

N.Z. Medical Corps.

This Corps is now up to establishment, and all ranks have shown great keenness and interest in their training. A new scheme of training is at present under consideration which it is hoped to put into operation in the near future. This scheme will provide a more comprehensive programme for the Corps, and the training proposed will be very useful to those who undergo it, long after their military service ceases.

5. CADETS.

The strength of the Cadets now under training is shown in Appendix I.

As in the case of the Territorial Force, the training of the Cadets during the past year has suffered very considerably from the suspension of drills and parades during the period of the epidemic.

Cadet training is most important, as it forms the foundation for the later and more advanced instruction and field-work in the Territorial Force. The greater portion of the training is devoted to careful individual instruction, particular attention being given to physical and recreational training. This elementary instruction, given at a most receptive age, is designed to build up the Cadet physically and to foster self-respect and the habits of alertness and prompt obedience to recognized authority. Its importance and value cannot be too strongly emphasized, and its results are shown by the surprising progress, smartness, and good discipline of adult units, which would otherwise be impossible with the small amount of training received in the Territorial Force.