

CAMP JOTTINGS

Concert Parties

Major J. M. Stewart, a padre attached to Headquarters at Trentham, is representing the Presbyterian, Methodist, Church Army, and several other denominations in the meantime. He is anxious to arrange for concert parties to attend the camp and would be glad to hear from anyone interested.

Entertaining The Men

Men in camp are not lacking in entertainment during the evening. There are pictures three nights a week at Trentham—on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, arranged by the Y.M.C.A. The Salvation Army has a marquee, and other Church denominations are rapidly organising marquees for the entertainment of the troops. Big business is reported by the canteen, which is doing unprecedented trade in cigarettes, soft drinks, chocolate, toothbrushes, and anything else the soldier wants. "We'll stock whatever the men want," is the slogan of those in charge. A Salvation Army social centre has been opened in Wellington.

Trentham's Mascot

Trentham already has its mascot—Major, a bull terrier. He appeared on parade last Sunday, when Colonel E. Puttick, D.S.O., was present. This parade was the first march past of the men of the volunteer army, and the Colonel expressed his pleasure at the smart behaviour and appearance of the men. So far there have been no complaints, either from the men or the officers.

Food By The Ton

Mountainous quantities of food disappear each day in the military camps. In the mass it looks imposing and sufficient for a small town. Taking Trentham as an example, here are some of the daily quantities:—

Bread—2,250 lbs.; meat, 2,700 lbs.; jam, 450 lbs.; fresh vegetables, 900 lbs.; potatoes, 1,800 lbs.; tea, 37 lbs.; butter, 450 lbs.; and milk, 1,350 pints.

Burnham and Ngaruawahia are both taking almost the same amounts.

Free Racing

Men in uniform are to enjoy the hospitality of the racing clubs, and will be admitted free to the courses.

No Dirt

Cleanliness is a fetish, almost, in the military camps. Cookhouses, particularly, must be kept spotless. Each cook is issued with three white suits; butter muslin must cover the milk containers when the lids are removed; there are special boards to be used only for pastry-making and others on which the meat is cut. The cooks themselves must attend to their personal cleanliness, even to keeping their nails free from dirt.



At Trentham: Captain R. Haddon, Camp Quartermaster (left) and Major L. Hunt, N.Z.S.C., Camp Commandant.

EVERYTHING IN THREES

The Army's New Number

"FORM fours" belongs to the past, as far as the army is concerned. In the new army three is the prevailing number.

In the past the men were drawn up in two ranks and opened out to four at the command, "Form fours." To-day the command is "In three ranks—fall in!" This new drill has been devised for simplicity, directness and speed, and the new army has lost none of its impressiveness as a result.

Three is the number of all field and ceremonial movements. There are three sections to a platoon in place of the former four; there are three platoons to a company, three companies to a battalion, three battalions to a brigade, and so on.

Marching in threes saves space when the army is moving along country roads; and an example of the new simplicity prevailing in the army can be gauged from the fact that only one command, "Right Turn," is necessary to get a unit into column of route.

The men now dress at arm's length, with the fist clenched, instead of touching shoulder to shoulder as in former days. They are then approximately 30 inches apart.

The command "Right dress" is given when a unit is at the "slope," that is, with the rifle over the left shoulder; and "Left dress" when the unit is at the "order" and the right hand occupied.

Changes have also been made when an officer salutes with his sword. Instead of coming from the "carry" to the "recover" and then pointing the sword downwards, the new movement is like a fencing salute, coming to the "recover," with the hilt level with the mouth and the blade pointing upwards.

Military experts are of the opinion that the new movement is a great improvement. The columns look as solid and impressive in threes as they did in fours, and when they march in line they look even more impressive for not being shoulder to shoulder.

If You Must Argue—

This will settle the dispute:

Serbia declared war on Austria-Hungary, July 28, 1914.

Germany declared war on Russia, August 1, 1914.

Germany declared war on France, August 3, 1914.

England declared war on Germany, August 4, 1914.

Portugal declared war on Germany in the spring of 1916.

Italy declared war on Germany, August 27, 1916.

The armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

The Great War did not terminate officially until August 31, 1921, when the treaties of peace had been ratified by all respective governments.

The total casualties for the British Empire were: Killed, 1,089,919; wounded, 2,400,988.

Germany: Killed, 2,050,466; wounded, 4,202,028.

France: Killed, 1,393,388; wounded, 1,490,000.

New Zealand's Contribution

Officers, men and nurses sent overseas, 100,444.

Training when the armistice was declared, 9,924.

New Zealand troops were sent to Samoa immediately after war was declared on August 4, 1914.

The Main Body left for Egypt in October, 1914, and totalled 8,499 officers and men.

The New Zealand Division left Egypt for France in April 1916.

Conscription was introduced in 1916. Under this Act 32,270 men were called up.

There were 91,941 volunteers, 13,843 of whom were not required for foreign service.

New Zealand losses were: Killed, 18,212; wounded, 45,946.

Ministry Tour

The Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, will pay a visit to the military camps at Burnham, Trentham, and Ngaruawahia, and the various Air Force camps as soon as he can conveniently do so.

A Big Job

Equipping the men with their uniforms was a big job for the Quartermasters in the various camps. At Trentham they were put through at the rate of 75 to 100 an hour. Equipment for the new army has been increased since the Great War. Each man now receives two pairs of boots and three pairs of socks. The boots, by the way, are a far better quality than the "Bill Masseys" worn by the 1914-18 soldiers.

A bootmaker's shop and a tailor's shop are both functioning, and the men may have their uniforms altered if they do not fit correctly.