

CAMP JOTTINGS

Training Junior Officers

An advanced training company has been started at Trentham for the training of junior officers. Promising non-commissioned officers and men are to be sent there from the various camps for the complete course. During the last war officers training corps were established in England.

Cricket At Trentham

Visitors to Trentham on a recent Sunday found a cricket match in progress, for the spirit of rivalry between the various units has found an outlet on the sports field. It was a good friendly match, but the chief attraction was the



S. P. Andrew, photograph
Lt.-Col. F. S. Varnham, appointed to command the 2nd Rifle Battalion, based at Trentham

dog which fielded constantly and retrieved the ball on every possible occasion, spoiling the scores but adding to the fun.

"Adder" Not "Adder"

Now you send us your story:
The scene: A tent at Trentham Camp.
Two soldiers are busily writing home.
1st soldier: How do you spell "adder," Bill?
2nd soldier: "ADDER," of course.
1st soldier: No, Bill, not "adder" the snake; "adder" good time.

Permanent Military Bands

It is proposed to establish permanent military bands in the three main military camps, and an appeal will probably be launched shortly in the various districts for funds with which to buy instruments. Local bands are anxious to co-operate in this effort to raise funds. Regimental military bands were a feature of the N.Z. Division during the last war, and there is no doubt that they cheered the soldiers on many a weary march through France and Egypt, particularly on that last mile or so before the billets were reached. That last mile was always the worst, and music soothed the nerves, if not the aching feet.

Entertaining The Soldiers

No Soldiers' Club has yet been formed in Wellington, but arrangements are well in hand. Committees have been formed and a probable site chosen. In the meantime many Wellington women have arranged to meet leave trains and take the men to their own homes, as many of the soldiers are strangers without friends or relatives in the city. In Christchurch a bureau has been established in Cathedral Square by the Welcome Club.

Leave Trains

Generous leave is to be allowed to soldiers in the various military camps, and arrangements have been made with the Railway Department for special trains. Leave is allowed on Friday evenings, as well as on Saturdays and Sundays. Camps are also open to visitors on Sundays.

Following is the Sunday timetable for Trentham:

Leave	Arrive
Wellington	Trentham
9.37 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
1.30 p.m.	2.25 p.m.
2.52 p.m.	3.45 p.m.
8.15 p.m.	9. 0 p.m.
Leave	Arrive
Trentham	Wellington
11.25 a.m.	12.18 a.m.
1.22 p.m.	2. 9 p.m.
4.45 p.m.	5.41 p.m.
6. 6 p.m.	6.57 p.m.

On Friday a train will leave Trentham at 6.20 p.m., reaching Wellington at 7.10 p.m. At 11 p.m. the train will leave



Major S. Allen, N.Z.S.C., O.C. Divisional Signals

Wellington and will reach Trentham at 11.45 p.m.

On Saturday the train will leave Trentham at 1.25 p.m., reaching Wellington at 2.25 p.m. The return train will leave Wellington at 11 p.m., reaching Trentham at 11.45 p.m.

At Ngaruawahia:

On Saturdays trains will leave the camp at 1 p.m. for Auckland and 1.10 p.m. for Hamilton. On Sundays a special train will leave Auckland for the camp at 10 a.m., returning to Auckland at 5.10 p.m. Trains for men on leave will depart from Auckland at 6.20 p.m. and from Hamilton at 8.50 p.m.

IT HAPPENED AT NGARUAWAHIA

ONE of the principal attractions at Ngaruawahia Military Camp is the mounting of the guard, which always commands an audience, because of the high standard of perfection already achieved after a few weeks of training. And as every old soldier knows full well, mounting a guard with precision is a real achievement, particularly with fresh troops and clusters of wondering faces gazing at the machine-like proceedings.

Regimental Sergeant Major W. Bates, one of a distinguished line of RSM's in the last war, takes great personal pride in this guard mounting, as he does in all other drill. Woe betide any slackness, for he knows his drill-book, leaf by leaf, from cover to cover. This efficient soldier is apt to become, on those occasions, a vessel of wrath and pour a stream of sarcasm on the unfortunate transgressor. He is quite definitely one of the old school of RSM's. The smartness and efficiency of the Grenadier Guards, or some equally famous regiment, is his ideal.

One recent Sunday, when a crowd of visitors had flowed into the camp from Auckland and Hamilton with the persistence of the rain, which fell all day in a torrent, two children took refuge in the sentry box. Now a sentry box guarding a camp is no place for children,

but apparently mother knew best and apparently the sentry was a married man—and sentimental. Anyhow, there they were, watching, pop-eyed, the soldiers in the rain.

When the new guard arrived to relieve those on duty the crowd of soldiers and civilians hung about to watch the proceedings. Mother herself was out in the rain, but her children were comfortable and dry.

It was unfortunate, though, that Sgt. Major Bates also arrived to watch, with practised eye, the guard mounting. When the two children were fished out of the box, his sensibilities suffered—terribly. But there will be no official record of his mental state at that horrible moment, or of the bitter thoughts he longed to utter at that sordid moment in his military career. Mother, too, had something to say, and insisted, with a vehemence that mere words can't convey, that her children should be dry, despite military discipline and behaviour. But military affairs take no notice of the state of a mother's heart on such occasions, and it is safe to say that sentry boxes at Ngaruawahia will never again become a refuge for children—wet or dry.

Meanwhile Sgt. Major Bates carries on, and it is also safe to say that no guards will be smarter or more efficient than those of Ngaruawahia.

Personal

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Pierce, M.C., who is with the Divisional Cavalry unit at Ngaruawahia, served with the Waikato Mounted Rifles in Palestine during the 1914-18 campaign.

Major L. F. Rudd, in command of the Field Co., Engineers, at Ngaruawahia, was formerly a well-known Auckland solicitor.

Captain T. Laffey, camp adjutant at Ngaruawahia, was formerly "mine host" of the Newmarket Hotel. During the last war he took the Guards course as an instructor.

Captain Maguire, a constable with the Auckland police, is now in camp at Ngaruawahia with the Divisional Ammunition Coy., A.S.C.

Captain John Russell, squadron leader at Ngaruawahia, is the son of Sir Andrew Russell, who commanded the New Zealand Division during the last war.

Captain S. Weir is in command of the 24th Battery, Royal N.Z. Artillery, and Captain Ainslie commands the 25th Battery at Ngaruawahia.

Lieut. H. S. C. Woolcott, late assistant borough engineer at Napier, is in command of the Field Park Coy., Engineers, at Ngaruawahia.

T. C. J. Reese, a former Canterbury representative cricketer, is a Sergeant with the A.S.C.

E. A. Riddiford, of Martinborough, was a farmer until he volunteered, and is now in the N.C.O.'s class at Trentham.

F. G. Bristed, now in Burnham Camp, is advertising manager of Aulsebrook and Co., Christchurch.

J. B. F. Cotterill, M.P. for Wanganui, has enlisted and will probably go into camp in November.

A. A. Deans, of Culverden, a Canterbury artist, is in camp at Burnham.

P. J. Byrne, cricketer and Christ's College Old Boy, is with the Rifle Battalion at Burnham.

Robert Stout, solicitor, and Mr. John Sinclair-Thomson, sharebroker, are two well-known Timaru men who have joined the colours.

With The R.A.F.

It is interesting to recall that when war broke out on September 1, 81 New Zealand trained pilots were with the Royal Air Force in England and, under the direct entry scheme, 267 men had been sent to England for training. Two schemes were in operation. The first concerned air pilots who had been partially trained in New Zealand and went to England to complete the course; the second concerned men who went home for all their training. Excellent reports have been received by the authorities of the standard of the men sent to England.