

CAMP JOTTINGS



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A New "Tipperary"

"Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Good-bye" is the new marching song for the British troops in France. Report says that it is the new "Tipperary," for it has a brisk, marching movement and it captures the spirit of the times. "Wish Me Luck" was first sung by Gracie Fields, and the first issue of gramophone records was sold out. The words are by Phil Park and the music by Harry Parr Davies. Chappell & Co. are the publishers. Above are the first few bars.

Auckland Hospitality

The Y.M.C.A. at Auckland has done fine work in billeting soldiers on leave from the Ngaruawahia Camp. Nearly 100 Auckland people have taken soldiers as their guests during the week-end. Many of the men have no friends or relatives in the city, but their hosts and hostesses have done everything possible to make their visits happy and comfortable. The names of the citizens are given to the Y.M.C.A., who arrange the billeting before the men arrive. Similar hospitality has been extended to soldiers by Hamilton residents.

New Army Pay-Books

The soldier's pay-book of to-day is quite a volume compared with that of 1914-18. Almost the full history of each soldier is contained in the new book—his full military record, the condition of his eyes, his decorations, next of kin, medical inoculations, and a complete statement of his army financial position, along with other particulars. But the book is still a bright, pillar-box red.

Inoculations Begin

Recently soldiers in camp got their first stab of the hypodermic needle when they were inoculated against typhoid fever. But that will not be the only one. If they go overseas, they will be inoculated periodically. Old soldiers of the last war remember the frequent "stabs" against all sorts of the complaints, but agree that it was a wise precaution on the part of the authorities and saved many lives. Men who served in France were inoculated against tetanus. Any wounded soldier was immediately given an injection to prevent the possibility of infection from the soil.

All injections, vaccinations, etc., are recorded in a soldier's pay-book.

Identity Numbers

Soldiers of the Special Military Force have received their identification numbers. Those at Ngaruawahia are numbered from 1,000 to 4,000; those at Trentham, 4,001 to 7,000; and those at Burnham from 7,001 to 10,000. These numbers are used for identification purposes,

and each soldier wears one on a disc round the neck. On official inspection parades of kit the disc must be shown otherwise an explanation is demanded.

During the 1914-18 war the various units, at the beginning, were distinguished by a unit number, as well as an individual number. For instance, quoting

from personal experience, the four battalions of the Rifle Brigade were numbered 23, 24, 25 and 26, each with a bar. General Fulton, who commanded the brigade, was 23/1, and Colonel Austin, O.C. 1st Battalion, was 23/2. Lieut. Colonel E. Puttick was 23/5. Lieut. Colonel A. E. Stewart, who commanded the 2nd Battalion, was 24/1. Similarly, units which left New Zealand before the Rifle Brigade, each had a distinguishing number, such as 1/, 2/, 3/, and so on. In the later stages of the war the unit numbers were dropped and the men of reinforcements leaving the Dominion were numbered consecutively, as they are to-day.

The identity numbers on letters to soldiers overseas were a great help to the field post office officials.

NEW BATTLE DRESS

All Ranks Will Look Alike



A NEW uniform, known as "battle dress" and worn by officers and men alike, has been adopted by the British Army on active service. It is quite probable that New Zealand's Special Force, if it goes overseas, will be equipped with the same uniform.

In former campaigns officers could be easily picked out by enemy marksmen because of their uniforms, consequently the toll of leaders was very heavy. During the 1914-18 conflict officers of the attacking forces for the most part adopted the soldier's tunic, but buttons and badges still made them easy marks.

The new battle dress will do away with this. Officers and men, of every rank and regiment, will look alike. Buttons have been hidden and any distinguishing badges will be embroidered into the material. Even the Scottish regiments, so proudly swinging into battle dressed in kilts as they did during the last war, must now adopt the drab and Robot-like khaki kit.

"Battle dress" consists of an easy-fitting blouse, with large patch pockets on each breast. The waist is gathered or tucked into a three-inch wide belt and

is fastened with five buttons, concealed in a fly. Hooks and eyes fasten the collar. All pocket buttons are also concealed. Sleeves are cut loosely and finished with a three-inch band into which the upper part is tucked. The trousers are cut fairly wide, with a strap inserted in the leg seam at the bottom and reaching to the front crease, where it is attached to a button when the trousers are worn without leggings. Six-inch canvas leggings can be worn over the trousers and fastened with strap and buckles. Before these leggings are donned, the strap mentioned above fastens the lower part of the trousers and keeps them in position.

A deep patch pocket, covered by a flap, is attached to the left leg, six inches down from the waist. There is a smaller one on the right leg of the trousers. Brace buttons are placed on the inside of the trouser tops for concealment.

Apparently the soldier of to-day will not wear puttees, as the old army did. An idea of the "battle dress" can be gained from the accompanying illustration of British soldiers in fighting kit.

Personal

Group Captain H. W. L. Saunders, M.C., D.F.C., M.M., Chief of Staff, Royal New Zealand Air Force, who will represent this Dominion at the conference of air chiefs in Canada, is a South African who has risen from the ranks. He served with the infantry in France, joined the Royal Air Force in 1917 and soon distinguished himself as an officer of exceptional courage. After the war he held important positions in Egypt and Iraq, before being appointed to the New Zealand command.

Squadron Leader T. W. White has been appointed to command the Royal New Zealand Air Force School at Wera-oro. He left New Zealand with the Main Body, later joined the R.A.F., and was taken prisoner when his plane was forced down in France. Since the war Squadron Leader White has been successfully associated with commercial flying in New Zealand.

Squadron Leader A. G. Gerand, who has been appointed to command the Observers' School at Ohakea, New Plymouth, was formerly operations manager, Union Airways. He is an Australian who came to the Dominion above eight years ago.

Squadron Leader G. L. Stedman, who served with the Royal Air Force in Mesopotamia during the last war, is now commanding No. 1 Elementary Training School for the Air Force at Dunedin. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1916, when serving with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles.

Squadron Leader D. M. Allan has been appointed to command the Flying Instructors' School at Mangere. At the outbreak of the last war he was in command of the Auckland Territorial Squadron.

Major C. J. Duff, formerly New Zealand Liaison Officer with the British War Office, is now commanding an anti-tank unit in England.

Ormond Wilson, formerly M.P. for Manawatu, has joined a New Zealand anti-tank unit in England.

B. T. Sheil has been posted to the active list with the rank of flying officer, Royal New Zealand Air Force, and given honorary rank as Squadron Leader. He will act as publicity officer at Air Headquarters, Wellington.

R. M. S. Orbell, son of Dr. Orbell, Timaru, is a member of the Advanced Training Company for junior officers at Trentham.

Several well-known Canterbury men are with the Advanced Training Company for junior officers at Trentham. These include G. F. Bristed, of Aulsebrook and Company, Christchurch; J. Ensor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Ensor, Rakaia; P. H. Wood, son of Mr. Peter Wood, Christchurch; Warner Westenra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Derek Westenra; J. Flower, son of Mr. A. E. Flower, Christ's College; E. A. McPhail, of Christchurch; and Hamish Deans, of Homebush.