

## CAMP JOTTINGS

### The Cook-house Door is Open

Many of the Sunday visitors to the military camps, and they have been numbered in thousands, have been taken on personally conducted tours round the cook-houses. Surprise and admiration that such efficiency should be found in a military camp have been expressed by everyone. These cook-houses and the men in charge of them are now functioning smoothly. As an example, here is last Sunday's menu for the men at Trentham: Breakfast, liver and bacon; Dinner, roast mutton, cauliflower, potatoes, etc., plum pudding; Evening meal, cold meats, pickles. This in addition to bread, butter, jam, and the usual trimmings.

### Camp Post Offices

Post offices worthy of small, progressive towns, have been established at Trentham, Burnham, Ngaruawahia, and Papakura military camps. Each office is

staffed by permanent officers of the Post and Telegraph Department. "We do everything except pay old age pensions," is the motto.

### Governor-General's Tour

His Excellency the Governor-General paid visits to both Burnham Camp and the Air Force Camp during his visit to Christchurch last week.

### Soldiers' Pay

Approximately £2,500 a week is being paid to soldiers of the Special Force at Trentham Camp. That is only for soldiers' pay, after deductions for wives have been allowed. Multiply it by three, add the cost of food and equipment, the cost of building the camps, plus the cost of various Air Force establishments and the Permanent Staff, and you will have some idea of the money in circulation from the various war establishments.

## COUNTING THE SMALL CHANGE

(By N.Z.R.B.)

New Zealanders who went overseas to serve in the last war learned quite a lot about money. They soon became as assiduous as the modern housewife in counting the small change, for they had to translate their £ notes into the currency of the country in which they found themselves. However, the probation period was always of slight duration, and they seldom lost in the transaction.

In Egypt we first made the acquaintance of the piastre, 100 of which equals a gold £. Not that we ever saw a gold piastre, but we soon discovered the purchasing power of the twenty, ten, five, one, and the half piastre coins. The half piastre, known to the old soldier by a very vulgar name which cannot be disclosed here, was the most common. It had a hole in the centre. New arrivals in Egypt were always greeted by hordes of grubby native boys who screamed "Oringees, forfurerarf," which interpreted meant that one could buy oranges for half a piastre. "To-morrow morning's paper" could always be bought the night before for the same amount. One could also buy packets of sickly sweet dates, fresh from the palm, and strange mixtures of food from stalls on the footpaths. But one did not do it often, if wisdom prevailed. In Egypt it was always safer and wiser to buy fruits which could be peeled. Itinerant native sellers had a passion for polishing and cleaning their wares, but as their methods were strictly unorthodox, their fruit and food could be most unhealthy.

In France we were introduced to the mysteries of the French coinage and we soon found that our pockets, only after pay-day, however, were filled with centime notes, valued roughly at about a penny. Because of the rate of exchange during the war, the New Zealand soldier scored when his £ was changed into

francs. Each French commune, or district, seemed to issue its own notes of low value, but notes of five francs and over were always of national printing and very beautiful in design. Ordinarily the franc was worth about tenpence. We soon found that champagne was remarkably cheap, compared with New Zealand prices. When money ran short, as it inevitably did in billets behind the lines, the popular custom was to mix champagne with the innocuous Bock beer to make it a little more stimulating. But our men drank more coffee than beer. In every farmhouse kitchen behind the lines, groups of our men sat round the stove, sipping their bowls of coffee, for which madame always made a small charge.

In England most of us made a first acquaintance with John Bradbury—the crisp, clean Bank of England note which was much smaller than the New Zealand note. There was no trouble with the English coinage, as it was the same as our own, but it did seem strange to receive farthings in the small change.

New Zealanders who served on Gallipoli gathered up numbers of Turkish coins, and others who called at various foreign ports going to and from the war added to their collections. For instance, we learned about American dollars on the way through the Panama Canal.

A good deal of German money was always discovered after an advance and the occupation of German trenches. Towards the end of the year every German soldier seemed to possess enormous quantities of paper money, but it was of no value to us. After the Armistice was declared many of our men possessed German notes amounting to many thousands of pfennings and marks, but apparently they had been printed in such quantities that they were valueless. Ordinarily the mark is worth one shilling.

## MINISTER PLEASSED

### First Visit to Trentham

THE Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, paid an unofficial visit to Trentham Camp one Sunday morning recently. Heavy departmental business has prevented him from visiting all the camps, but he hopes to do this soon as he can spare the time, when he proposes to include in his tour the Air Force establishments as well as all the military camps.

Mr. Jones stated that he was very pleased with what he saw at Trentham, especially the spirit of the men, which was excellent. He was impressed, too, by the type of man he saw there—a type well up to the average New Zealand standard.

"As far as the roads and paths are concerned, mud has been eliminated for all time," said Mr. Jones. "This applies to the camps at Burnham and Papakura also. The Public Works Department has done good work in constructing our camps."

During his visit to Trentham Mr. Jones found time to spend an hour at the Soldiers' Club which has been organised by the residents of the Trentham and Heretaunga districts. This is a most popular meeting place during the week-ends for soldiers from the camp. A large garage has been transformed into a comfortable club, with excellent facilities for recreation. The Hon. Vincent Ward is among those who have interested themselves in the club.

### Moving to Papakura

At the end of last week a start was made to move various units from Ngaruawahia Camp to the new military camp at Papakura. The Infantry Battalion has been moved to its new quarters, as well as other units. Papakura Camp has been laid out on model lines.

### Pride of Appearance

Believe it or not, but there are electric irons in some of the huts at Trentham. A few months ago stalwart young men of the Advanced Training Battalion would probably have refused to recognise an iron of any kind; to-day they plug in and attack the creases out of their handkerchiefs and trousers like old hands at the laundry game. Pride in personal appearance means much to soldiers.

### Officers from the Ranks

Every opportunity is to be given to men of the Special Force now in camp to become officers and non-commissioned officers. The English principle of taking officers from the ranks for the command of the soldiers in the field will be followed in New Zealand. Already a number of men are being trained as officers at a special course at Trentham.

## Personal

Major P. W. G. Spiers, O.C. Headquarters, 3rd Rifle Battalion, Burnham, is a well-known Dunedin banker.

Major F. J. Gwilliam, Machine Gun Co., Ngaruawahia, was with the Auckland City Council before he went into camp.

Major G. R. Lee was on the secretarial staff of the Timaru Harbour Board.

Major A. A. Tennent, O.C. Field Ambulance at Burnham, was medical officer of the New Zealand Contingent which attended the Coronation of King George VI.

Major H. G. Carruth, Second in Command, Divisional Cavalry at Ngaruawahia, is a well-known Whangarei solicitor. He was second in command of the Coronation Contingent.

Major C. F. Rudd, O.C. 1st Field Co., Engineers, is an Auckland solicitor.

Major A. J. Nicoll, the well-known Ashburton racehorse owner, will go into camp at Ngaruawahia with the Divisional Cavalry, 2nd Echelon.

Major George Clifton, M.C., has been appointed officer commanding the Northern District School of Instruction at Narrow Neck, Auckland. Officers of the 2nd Echelon will be trained there.

Captain D. Eckhoff, formerly of the Public Trust, is now camp paymaster at Trentham, and one of the busiest men in that busy camp. He was an artillery officer in the last war.

Captain G. F. Fussell, O.C. No. 3, Rifle Battalion, at Ngaruawahia, was on the staff of the Guardian Trust.

Captain C. T. Kelleway left the staff of the Auckland Gas Company to go into camp.

Captain M. A. Bull, mathematics master at the Christchurch West High School, and lecturer at Canterbury College, will go into camp with the Field Artillery, 2nd Echelon, at Ngaruawahia.

Lieut. D. J. Sweetzer, who was a member of the Coronation Contingent, was an executive of the North Island Motor Union.

Lieut. A. R. Fitchett is a son of the Bishop of Dunedin.

Lieut. W. Moffat, assistant master at the Christchurch Boys' High School, will go into camp with the officers of the 2nd Echelon at Burnham.

Lieut. R. R. Livingstone, who goes into camp with the 2nd Echelon at Burnham, is a son of H. G. Livingstone, of Christchurch.

Niall Paterson, formerly insurance agent at Napier and now with the Advanced Training Company for officers at Trentham, is the only cadet N.C.O. who has commanded troops during a parade before the Governor-General. This happened during a King's Birthday parade at Auckland, when he was Battery Sergeant-Major at the Takapuna Grammar School.