

## CAMP JOTTINGS

### Papakura Camp

Mirrors on coat racks, boot scrapers outside each hut door, wooden beds, and racks for equipment are a few of the minor amenities of the new camp at Papakura. This camp is as nearly perfect as a military camp could be. It was planned and constructed before men were sent there.

### Recreation Huts

A big new Y.M.C.A. hut is under construction at Trentham, on the edge of the new camp area. A special region has been set aside for the tents and huts of religious denominations which are catering for the recreation of the soldiers. The Government intends to build a large recreation hall in each of the large camps.

### Improvements at Trentham

Construction work on the new camp at Trentham is almost finished. Roads are being given their final coats of tar and sand, and rows of white-washed stones between the tents are in the true military tradition. The final touches are also being given to many of the new buildings, additional drains for drainage and sewerage have been laid, and the camp generally is beginning to take on the appearance of permanence.

### Maori Battalion

The Maori Pioneer Battalion will probably go into camp on January 18. Officers and non-commissioned officers are to begin their training on November 26.

### Planning for Waiouru

Officers of the Trentham and Papakura Rifle Battalions have been to Waiouru, where, working with members of the Staff Corps, they have been planning field operations for manoeuvres. These will be on battalion and divisional scale, and will accustom the men of the Second New Zealand Division to active service conditions. Units from Burnham Camp will conduct their manoeuvres at Cave, South Canterbury. Transport difficulties and the Exhibition combined to prevent sending all the infantry regiments to Waiouru.

### The 2nd Echelon

Men of the 2nd. Echelon will not go into camp for some time, as the date has not yet been fixed. Officers are already undergoing their training and refresher courses, and the non-commissioned officers will go into camp early in December.

### Preparing for Manoeuvres

Waiouru is a name which will appear in our newspapers with increasing frequency from now on. At the moment an aerial survey is being made of that territory which will be used as a military training ground by units of the Second New Zealand Division. Infantry battalions from Trentham and Papakura will go to Waiouru for manoeuvres, and later all artillery units will meet there for a rehearsal of war-time activities. The Government also proposes to make aerial surveys of all other parts of New Zealand where military camps have been established.

Waiouru is admirably suited to military manoeuvres on the grand scale. Great stretches of rolling country permit the movement of soldiers without hindrance, and tactical schemes, so necessary to the senior officers, can be carried out to their best advantage.

Scenically, also, Waiouru has much in its favour. Mt. Ruapehu rises majestically in the background, and on all sides the great undulating plain is ringed about with mountains. During the summer the day temperatures are high, but the nights are always comfortably cool.

### BOOKS FOR MILITARY CAMPS

This appeal was broadcast last week from all National Stations. If you did not hear it then, read it now.

"A man must read, even in a military training camp. The soldiers in our camps need books — good books — just as all of us do, but they are less fortunate than others who have books in their homes or who can borrow from a library.

"There are libraries in the camps, but they have few books — as yet. However, they will soon have books if you, personally, make a generous response to this appeal.

"Receiving organisations are waiting to rush them to camps immediately to satisfy the demand, already urgent. Those books that you have read, still as good as new, lying idle on your shelves, send them now! Not old magazines and tattered books, fit only for the scrap heap, but books which have a long life ahead of them. Do your part! Give books to the troops.

"The Librarians in the four main towns, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, are prepared to assist. The Librarian of each public library is ready to receive gifts of magazines and books for the camp library service.

"You may be sure that every book received will be used to the best advantage and be properly cared for. The whole of the organisation is in the hands of the Government Country Library Service. Make up a parcel straightaway and send it to your public library. Label it 'Books for Military Camps.'"

## Personal

Group Captain A. Coningham, D.S.O., M.C., one of New Zealand's war aces, has been appointed to command No. 4 Group, Royal Air Force, in England.

Colonel S. D. Mason, an accountant from Timaru, has been appointed to command the Infantry Battalion of the 2nd Echelon at Burnham. He went to the last war with the Mounted, joined the Royal Air Force, served with the Somerset Light Infantry in Palestine, and after the war joined the Canterbury Regiment.

Colonel N. L. Macky, M.C., a solicitor in private life, has been appointed to command the 21st Auckland Battalion of the 2nd Echelon, Second New Zealand Division. He served throughout the last war with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Colonel Macky is a keen yachtsman and an active member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron in Auckland.

Lieut.-Commander R. Hunter Blair, R.N., son of Major R. S. Hunter Blair, of Christchurch, has been appointed Flag-Lieutenant to the Admiral of the Fleet at Scapa.

Major H. de R. Petrie, who is now in camp with the Rifle Battalion at Papakura, was formerly secretary of the North Auckland Dairy Company.

Major H. M. Foster, N.Z.S.C., has been appointed Camp Commandant at Burnham.

Major H. G. Livingstone, the well-known Christchurch land agent, has been appointed area officer at Christchurch and taken on to the temporary staff.

Flight Lieutenant A. C. Upham, D.F.C., of Taupo, has been appointed officer commanding the Elementary Air Training School at New Plymouth. He saw service with the R.A.F.C. in the last war, was with the territorial air force in New Zealand, flew with the Forestry Patrol Service in Canada, and with the Channel Service in England.

Captain Tahu Rhodes, formerly of Canterbury, has been appointed Railway Transport Officer for the London District with the rank of Major.

Flying Officer H. S. T. Weston, a New Plymouth solicitor, has been appointed adjutant of the Elementary Air Training School at New Plymouth. He was trained at Wigram.

### More Camp Stories

A cockney who still retained his peculiarity of speech was writing home from Ngaruawahia.

"How do you spell 'fought,' Bill?" he asked his companion.

"Which 'fought' do you mean?" asked Bill. "The 'fought' you fight or the 'fort' you build?"

"I don't mean neither, Bill. I mean the 'fought' you fink."

## DEATH OF A RUMOUR

RUMOUR, that wily enemy of reputations and institutions, spreads its destructive net more readily and easily when war is in the air. Put thousands of men into camps, and rumour immediately gets busy, however wild and baseless its genesis.

No names need be mentioned. "I was told," "They told me," "He told a friend of mine," are only a few of the beginnings to the overture. Some idle fragment of gossip goes its way, building like a snowball but much more destructive in its objective.

Rumours from the camps have been legion, but the Defence authorities, with one ear tuned to the ground, have decided that any false stories calculated to affect the ordinary soldier shall be investigated thoroughly. This is just another proof that the welfare of our soldiers is the first consideration of all concerned.

Here is one true story from Trentham of how a rumour was laid low and proved to be utterly without foundation. No names will be mentioned, for obvious reasons, but a pile of official corres-

pondence is evidence of the thoroughness of the investigation.

One day a letter from the parents of a soldier in camp reached the authorities and stated on reliable authority that (1) the food was badly cooked and totally inadequate; (2) there was grave dissatisfaction among the soldiers.

An investigation was begun immediately. Thirty companions of the soldier concerned were questioned. One said he had heard some vague reference to dissatisfaction; the others had no cause for complaint. Apart from saying that the tea had not been very good, they assured the authorities that they were quite satisfied. The meals were plain but adequate and the food was well cooked. Statements were taken from every section commander up to company commanders, but no instance of any serious complaint could be discovered.

Finally the soldier himself expressed regret to the authorities for having caused so much trouble. The whole thing had begun by a chance remark, made without serious thought, in a letter to his parents.