

CAMP JOTTINGS

Permanent Camps

The military camps at Trentham, Burnham and Papakura will be permanent establishments. That is why so much attention has been paid to their construction and lay-out. Ngaruawahia will also be a permanent military camp, though not such an elaborate one as the other three.

Before war broke out, plans had been drawn up for the mobilisation camp at Papakura, and these were immediately put into operation. All the three principal camps have been laid out with a view to their permanence, but the outbreak of war hurried their final construction.

Tar-sealed roads, electric lights, bathing and cooking arrangements are all part of the modern military camp and have not been instituted as temporary war measures, as some people seem to imagine.

Permanent picture theatres and canteens are being constructed at Burnham, Trentham and Papakura, and these will serve the soldier in peace time as they do in war. Naturally, to meet war conditions, some extra accommodation has been necessary, but generally speaking the three main mobilisation camps would have become part of New Zealand's defence system even if war had not broken out.

Wet Canteens

A wet canteen is now in operation at Trentham. Others will be established at Burnham, Papakura, Ngaruawahia and the Air Force camps as soon as possible. Milk bars and cafeterias will be part of the establishment of each canteen, and the whole scheme will be under the control of a Canteen Board, with the Minister of Defence as its head. The establishment of wet canteens is fully covered by special regulations.

Officially Christened

An official name has been given to the men who are now in camp training for service. From now on they will be known as the Second New Zealand Division, which will carry on the tradition and continuity of the Division which fought in the last war. The brigades and their battalions will also begin where the last Division left off, and this system of numbering will apply throughout the whole of the New Zealand Forces.

Personal

Major E. A. Harding, M.C., has gone into camp at Narrow Neck with officers of the 2nd Echelon. He served with the Rifle Brigade in the last war, and took charge of the 1st Battalion during the advance near Le Quesnoy.

Major T. H. E. Oakes, brother of the Countess of Orford, has gone into camp with the officers of the 2nd Echelon. He has been in business in Auckland for some years.

Captain T. V. Fitzpatrick, North Auckland Regiment, has been posted to the 4th Anti-Tank Coy., Trentham.

Captain C. F. McAllum, formerly on the staff of the Bank of Australasia, Wellington, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal and stationed at Trentham. He served with the Rifle Brigade during the last war.

Captain C. D. Bryson, of Wellington, has joined the Machine-gun Battalion at Burnham Camp as quartermaster. He was formerly attached to the New Zealand Scottish Regiment.

Second Lieut. J. G. Wyndward, of Te Awamutu, the well-known All Black, has gone into camp at Ngaruawahia with the Divisional Cavalry.

Second Lieut. W. G. Hardcastle, New Zealand Artillery, has gone to Ngaruawahia to train with the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment, 2nd Echelon.

THE YEARS ROLL BACK

"THIS might be 1914-15 again," I thought one day last week.

Groups of khaki-clad figures were scattered about green paddocks a few miles from Trentham Camp, on a farm near the Hutt River. They were going about their advanced field training operations, and their instruction in the arts of warfare was much the same as that given to the men of the first Expeditionary Force.

But there was this difference. Every man to-day wears his gasmask at the alert position (on his chest) and a steel helmet. Though the gasmask is not complete, the men are becoming accustomed to its daily use as an essential part of their equipment and training. No man in France after the early stages of the last war was ever without his gasmask. Here in New Zealand, in the shadow of the bush which grows in isolated clumps on this particular farm, the gasmask and the steel helmet are, perhaps, the outward symbols of a state of things to come.

Soldiers in the 1914-18 campaign did not receive their gasmasks and tin helmets until they reached France. Gas had not become one of the horrors of the war in Egypt, and steel helmets did not become part of the soldier's equipment until some time after war broke out. Their use has saved the lives of numberless soldiers.

If those soldiers in the Hutt Valley were thinking of war, there was no obvious manifestation of it. War, that day, seemed a peaceful occupation as I watched the men at work and had lunch with them. Bronzed by the sun, they seemed the happiest and healthiest people imaginable. Living so much in the open air, their lives pleasantly disciplined by regular hours and regular meals, they are learning that soldiering has some compensations as far as the health of the body is concerned.

One young stalwart, nearly six feet tall, told me that he had put on two



ALL WORK AND NO PLAY makes Jack a dull boy, and Tommy Atkins, too, might well get dull if he had only infantry training and P.T. to occupy his days. Here we see some members of the Special Force indulging in strenuous recreation at a camp sports meeting

stone since he joined the army. His uniform proved it.

When lunch time came, many of the men went off for a swim in a huge bathing pool in the Hutt River, where the bush-clad hill on the far side reflected its sombre green in the eddying depths. An idyllic spot for those with an eye to pastoral beauty. It was the same pool where we swam 25 years ago, and I recalled that in those days any thought of the difficult time ahead never entered my mind. Each day was a day to be lived for itself only—and I was gloriously healthy then.

Lunch, rather like a family picnic on the edge of the bush, was a simple, wholesome affair. Company cooks had built a fireplace of stones on which to prepare the steaming dainties of tea. Mess orderlies and the quartermaster-sergeant's assistants were cutting loaves of bread into particularly healthy slices—so many for each section of men. No dainty sandwich wafers these, to go with the ration of butter and cheese and jam, but good

solid quarter-inch slices, worthy of a healthy appetite.

"How the years have rolled back," I thought again as I watched those groups of young men lying in the sun, calling out the same old army remarks, wrestling, playing tricks on each other. One man, I learned, was formerly of Lord Howe Island; another's forebears were of negro blood. The quartermaster of that particular company had seen service in Palestine; the New Zealanders were representative, almost, of the whole of the Dominion.

Officers of this Infantry Company were enthusiastic about the quality of their men. And it seemed to me that, should the necessity arise, these young New Zealanders will again establish a new and enduring reputation. This is only the beginning—on the green and sunlit fields take also—many of the officers who will lead them have had valuable experience from the last war.

Maori Battalion

A few of the officers with the Maori Battalion will be pakehas, but every opportunity will be given to Maoris to fill the commissioned ranks. Major Dittmer is at present investigating the Maori personnel in the Special Force, and those who are considered suitable will be sent to Trentham to train as commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Recommendations will also be received from Maoris in different parts of the Dominion who may be considered suitable for such positions. In addition, certain vacancies will be left in the Battalion, and when the men go into camp, specially selected individuals will fill the positions which have been left open. The Maori Battalion will go into camp at the Palmerston North Show Grounds about January 18.

Service conditions for Maoris are the same as those for pakehas, that is, preference will be given to single men, but married men with one or two children will be taken in special instances. Up to date about 963 Maoris have enlisted.

Minister on Tour

The Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Defence, paid his first visit to the Air Force camp at Taieri, Dunedin, last Friday. On Monday he visited Burnham Camp for the first time, and also inspected Wigram Air Force establishment. This week Mr. Jones hopes to go to Auckland to pay a round of visits which will include Papakura Camp and the Air Force camps.