

TOWN-PLANNING FOR SOLDIERS

(By "23/762")

DAY by day the military camps of New Zealand become more and more like well-planned towns, complete, in a sense, with every modern convenience for a world of men.

Trentham, for example, has reached the stage when its streets are named—each street in memory of a battle or engagement in which the New Zealand Division established its reputation in the last World War. Somme Road, Fiers Road, Messines Road, Gallipoli Avenue and so on recall names which will always be associated with New Zealand's background of history. Their use adds to the military character of the camp.

So much has been written in describing Trentham, old and new, as well as the other two large military camps, that further reference suggests repetition, but each visit reveals some new feature, some improvement which will make the New Zealand camps models of military efficiency. There has been no haphazard throwing together of huts, tents, and administration blocks; everything has been built according to a plan as comprehensive as that of any town-planning scheme. Moreover much of the planning was done before the outbreak of war—for the camps will be permanent.

Since the first rush of preparation is over, the details can be completed at a more leisurely pace, building up as each camp is completed. Naturally the camp planners regard their efforts with some pride. At Papakura flower beds are beginning to appear in ordered beauty, and no doubt the open spaces will be set off by velvet lawns. These are already making their appearance at Trentham, and the camp commandant there is particularly proud of his achievement. No gardener ever watched with a more practised eye the "strike" of grass on the area between the hutments and the tents than this officer who has charge of the business end of the camp. Only a few weeks ago this area resembled some forgotten corner of a drought-stricken field; to-day the slender shafts of grass are ready for the mowing machine. Giant artillery shells, just harmless weights left over from the last war since all danger has been removed, now mark the corners of the parade ground. But they are still impressive.

Fire-Fighting Plant

In its various and myriad units Trentham is nearly complete. A crimson fire-fighting unit regularly tests the hydrants and water supply, shooting great fountains into the air. Its first call came recently when a marquee burst into flames.

Lending libraries are not usually met with in military camps, but Trentham has one, card-indexed and conducted exactly like a city library. The Country Library Service has taken this work under its wing and changes the books regularly. Other volumes are added from those donated by the public. Dilapidated books are not welcome, please note. I had time only to see a few names on the

fat shelves—the Complete Opera Book; "Memoirs of a British Agent," by Bruce Lockhart; "My Wales," by Rhys Davies; hosts of travel books and biographies; books by Arnold Bennett, Zane Grey, E. F. Benson, Stella Benson, S. R. Crockett, Cronin, Marconi, Freda Stark, Gertrude Page, Dorothy Sayers, Ruby M. Ayers, and, believe it or not, Marie Corelli. Nearby a reference library is in the making, but a reading room, with the daily papers arranged on benches, is one of the most popular places in the camp and the pride of the camp commandant. It is more popular, even, than the "wet" canteen which recently was enlarged by roofing over the space between the present canteen hut and the one next to it.

Strict Canteen Rules

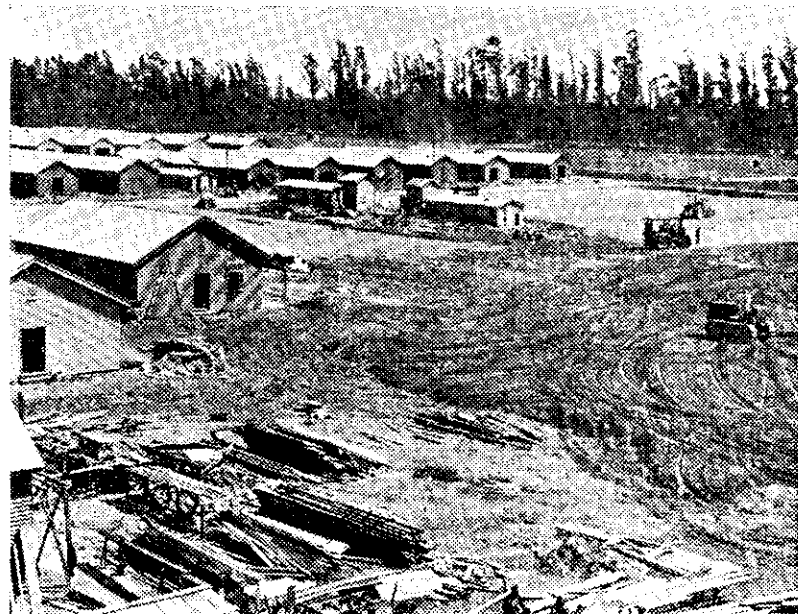
Private enterprise has never conducted a business more strictly than the Army authorities handle their "wet" canteens. "One drink, one man" is displayed in the largest type and woe betide the generous soldier who wants to "shout" for his friends; he is not even permitted to collect his friends' money and take it to the bar. And the barman, knowing the comprehensive list of regulations from memory, is transformed into granite by any soft and imploring request.

In order to keep the "business" side of the camp more or less complete in itself, all subsidiary establishments have been grouped together. For instance, the fully equipped dental clinic, the hospital block, the tailor's shop, the bootmaker's shop, the post office, the library, the railway ticket office and all such serviceable auxiliaries to a modern military establishment have been placed in one area. Close by is the big new Y.M.C.A., one of the largest buildings in the camp, along with the other centres for the various religious denominations.

No Horses

Meanwhile the other work of completion goes on. A spacious area has been set aside as a park for mechanised transport, where convoys of trucks and lorries and cars, all camouflaged in Cubist fashion, line up in mathematical precision. Times have changed since 1914-18. I remember how the camp commandant of that period galloped round Trentham on a superb white charger. To-day any "galloping" is performed less conspicuously, but not so romantically, in an efficient car.

Meanwhile the huge camp creeps nearer to the hills to the south. More bath-houses, a modern laundry in which steam will be used to heat the water, boiler houses, store houses, are all in the final stages of completion. Roadways are now tar-sealed, proof against mud and dust; areas between the tents are sanded; old huts which did duty in the last war are being relined and refitted with beds, lockers, rifle-racks, electric lighting—all contributing to the comfort of the men of the new army.



LOOKING DOWN on a comparatively small corner of the permanent camp area at Burnham. A tractor can be seen engaged in levelling the ground, while heavy rollers provide a finished surface in the background

THE NAZI WAY—

What Hitler Said

May 21, 1935:

The German Government will scrupulously respect every treaty voluntarily signed, even if concluded before its entry into power. It will, therefore, in particular respect and fulfil all obligations arising from the Locarno Pact.

May 21, 1935:

The German Government will unconditionally respect all other clauses of the Versailles Treaty, including the territorial clauses.

January 30, 1934:

The assertion that the Reich intends to overpower the Austrian State is absurd, and can by no means be proved or substantiated.

May 21, 1935:

Germany neither intends nor wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of Austria, to annex Austria or to conclude an Anschluss.

March 12, 1936:

No people desires peace more than the German people. Germany only wishes to live and work in peace and quiet.

March 7, 1936:

We are ready to conclude a non-aggression pact with Czechoslovakia.

March 7, 1936:

We have no territorial claims to make in Europe.

September 26, 1938:

This is the last territorial claim I have to make in Europe I have assured Mr. Chamberlain, and I emphasise it now, that when this problem is solved Germany has no more territorial problems in Europe. When the Czechs shall have come to an understanding with their other minorities I shall not be interested in the Czech State any more.

From "Mein Kampf," Hitler's book: "When we speak of new territory in Europe to-day we must principally think of Russia and the border states subject to her. . . . To carry out this policy we need that force which the mortal enemy of our nation, France, now deprives us of. . . . No sacrifice should be considered too heavy, if the final outcome would be to overthrow our bitterest enemy."

August 23, 1939:

Germany demanded the surrender of Danzig and a plebiscite on the Polish corridor question.

October 6, 1939:

I have no claims in Rumania, the Ukraine, the Urals, or Denmark.

What Hitler Did

March 7, 1936:

Germany unilaterally denounced the Locarno Treaty, which her Government had voluntarily accepted and which had not been infringed by any other signatory power.

March 7, 1936:

German troops re-occupied the demilitarised portion of the Rhineland, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Locarno.

July 25, 1934:

Nazi rising in Austria planned by Germany. Austrian Nazis mustered in German territory ready for invasion. Chancellor Dollfuss assassinated in Vienna.

March, 1938:

Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg forced to resign by threat of German invasion. German troops invaded Austria. Austria annexed.

1936-1939:

German troops and aircraft sent to Spain to take part in the Civil War. German planes bomb Spanish towns, killing civilians.

September, 1938:

German ultimatum to Czechoslovakia to cede Sudeten areas or be invaded.

October, 1938:

Sudeten areas of Czechoslovakia annexed after Munich.

March, 1939:

Slovakia encouraged to separate from Czechoslovakia. Bohemia and Moravia invaded by large German army. Czech government forced to capitulate under threat of bombardment of Prague. Prague occupied. Czech State annexed. Memel annexed after ultimatum to Lithuania.

August 22, 1939:

Germany signed her pact with Russia, to the consternation of European diplomatic circles.

September 1, 1939:

Without warning, the German army marched into Poland.