

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### Finland's Hospitals

Latest reports state that two of Helsinki's famous hospitals have been bombed by the Russians. Finland, during her 21 years as a separate and individual state, has built up a superb hospital and health service, regarded by many doctors as the finest in the world.

### Belgium's Defences

Once more Paris observers have declared that Germany is ready, if necessary, to break through Belgium and Holland. Although Holland was not invaded during the last war, she is now ready to break the dykes and flood large areas of her fertile and picturesque countryside. Her small army could not hope to withstand the force of the German advance, but mud would play its part. Belgium suffered untold misfortune during the 1914-18 war, but this time her defences are stronger. She also has her Maginot line, a combination of concrete emplacements, hidden guns and anti-tank traps. This line is linked with a vast network of canals, which are again linked with the Dutch canals to the north and the French defence system in the south.

### To Command the Canadians

The Canadian Forces, the first contingents of which arrived in England without public knowledge, are to be commanded by Major-General Andrew George Latta McNaughton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. At the outbreak of war he was

President of the National Research Council of Canada; from 1929 to 1935 he was chief of the Canadian General Staff. During the war General McNaughton served with the Canadian Forces and was twice wounded. After the war he continued with the forces and took courses at the Royal Staff College of Camberley and the Imperial Defence College in London.

### The Suez Canal

New York has reported that Italy may be given a block of shares in the Suez Canal. At the moment Britain and France have the controlling interest in this most important waterway in the world. By a convention signed in 1888 the Suez Canal was exempted from blockade. Vessels of all nations, whether armed or not, are allowed to pass through in peace or war. Over 5,000 vessels of a gross tonnage of over 28

claimed recently that war might have broken out in South Africa instead of Poland, is now 69 years of age and a man with a remarkable career. He served in the Boer war and was given supreme command of the Republican Forces in Cape Colony in 1901. He holds honorary degrees in 21 universities in Great Britain, the United States, Canada and South Africa, and he is a freeman of ten English and Scottish cities. General Smuts is a celebrated lawyer and a Bench of the Middle Temple. He has played a great part in the political life of South Africa, where he has held all the high offices, including the Prime Ministership from 1919 to 1924. In 1916-17 he commanded the armed forces in British East Africa and after the war he represented South Africa at the Peace Conference.

### Men For 2nd Echelon

Soldiers of the 2nd Echelon will probably go into camp about January 12. Officers and non-commissioned officers are already in camp and have

### 'Planes For New Zealand Now In Action

NOW that the Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, has made known New Zealand's proposed contribution to the Empire air training scheme in Canada, it can be stated that this Dominion has already made considerable sacrifice.

Before war broke out, a comprehensive scheme for air force expansion in New Zealand had been fully approved and was being put into operation. This included the purchase of six Wellington Bombers for training purposes at air force centres here. These huge 'planes were to have been flown to the Dominion by a specially selected group of New Zealand pilots, mechanics, wireless operators and other personnel trained in England.

When war was declared, however, the British Government requested the New Zealand Government's permission to retain the machines and the men in England for immediate service. This request was agreed to readily, and the Wellington Bombers and their personnel immediately went into action with the Royal Air Force.

It is thought here that some of the bombers took part in the first British raid on the Kiel Canal. Three New Zealand wireless operators were in that raid, as well as New Zealand pilots. The wireless operators have since written to relatives and friends describing their adventures. But only briefly. Strict censorship prevents a full description of the raids from being made public, but the men have stated that the first big raid took place in a terrific storm, with lightning flashing round the machines to add to the prevailing excitement. Far below them they were able to see a German submarine.

Under the original agreement with the British Government the Wellington Bombers were to have left England in October, and would have reached the Dominion in November. Meanwhile older types of available aircraft are being used for training operations in New Zealand, but newer and more advanced types are to be obtained shortly from overseas sources.

overcome. It is interesting to recall that the first submarine was constructed in 1775 by Bushell, an American, who propelled his boat by hand. France built the first mechanically constructed submarine in 1863. It was 146 ft. long. The present submarines, which have been greatly improved since the last war, are the outcome of designs by J. P. Holland, accepted by the United States in 1887. The machinery inside these vessels is extremely complex and consists of the following essential plant, as well as smaller mechanism: (1) a petrol or oil engine (2) an electric machine which can be used for propulsion or as a dynamo (3) an electric storage battery (4) a powerful air-compressing installation (5) storage bottles for storing compressed air (6) machinery for controlling hydroplanes (fin-like structures, projecting from the sides, which control the depth) (7) fighting equipment such as torpedoes, etc. (8) wireless plant (9) intricate listening apparatus.

## ALLIED LEADERS (9): General Sir John Dill



Born in Belfast, of Irish parents, he was educated at Sandhurst and was serving in the South African War at the age of 19. Even at that age he was singled out as a future teacher and staff officer, and in 1914 he was an instructor at British military staff colleges. Most of his service in the 1914-18 campaign was as a staff officer, because of his knowledge of military tactics, but he took active service in the field, for which he was decorated by the British, French, and Belgian Governments.

From 1926-28 he was instructor at Camberley; 1929-30 General Staff in India; 1931-34 commandant at Camberley Staff College where New Zealand staff corps officers met him; 1934-36 Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at the War Office.

Then, in 1936, General Dill was appointed to command the British Forces in Palestine during the revolt there. A Syrian bandit put a price of £500 on his head. He was amused that they thought it so valuable. After his return from Palestine he was engaged in consultations with French Army generals and was impressed by the Maginot Line fortifications.

Popular with both French and British, General Dill obtains results by persuasion, because he knows his job. He speaks French, which overcomes difficulties. His wife is the daughter of an Army Colonel. They have one son.

SELECTED to command the 1st Army Corps of the British Expeditionary Force in France, General Sir John Greer Dill, K.C.B., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., is a British officer in the new tradition. He is intellectual, witty, and famous for his personal charm. He was 59 on Christmas Day.

million tons pass through the canal each year. During the last war New Zealand soldiers guarded the canal at Ismailia. It was an easy swim "from Africa to Asia," for the canal divides the two continents. At a cost of £4,000,000 the British Government acquired from the Khedive of Egypt 176,602 shares in 1875. To-day the value of those shares is over £65,000,000.

### General Smuts

General the Right Hon. Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, who

completed their refresher courses and preliminary training. They will be ready to take over the volunteers on their arrival at the various camps and to begin immediately the full course of training. Recruiting is already in progress, but more men are still wanted to fill the requirements of the 2nd Echelon.

### Inside the Submarine

Latest reports at the time of going to press suggest that the submarine menace may have been successfully

## MAIL FOR TROOPS OVERSEAS

RATES of postage for letters and parcels sent to soldiers on active service have been announced by the Postmaster-General, the Hon. F. Jones.

They are as follow:

Parcels not more than 3lbs.	
in weight - - -	1/6
Parcels not more than 7lbs.	
in weight - - -	3/-
Newspapers -	1/2d each 3ozs.
Letters -	Ordinary New Zealand Inland Rate

The maximum weight for parcels is 7lbs. This has been decided on in order to conserve space on ships. It is hoped that newspapers will be used as packing for parcels, and thus reduce still further the number to be posted.

When addressing mail and parcels to soldiers it is well to remember to put each soldier's regimental number first, then his name, then his regiment, then 2nd New Zealand Division Overseas. All mail should be addressed to the G.P.O., Wellington, which will forward it as opportunity offers.

During the last war a large number of parcels reached their destinations in France and Egypt in a dilapidated condition, the result of insufficient packing. Don't spare the string.

Cakes and puddings should be made as airtight as possible in tins. It is a good plan to put a few good keeping apples in such parcels, as they tend to keep the cakes and puddings moist.