

## EMPLOYERS MUST CO-OPERATE

### New Home Defence Scheme

**I**N order to make the new home defence scheme a success, the co-operation of all employers is necessary and urgent. Commenting on this aspect of the scheme, the Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, stated:

"The utmost co-operation from employers is required if this scheme is to become a success. A great deal depends on the employers, not only in giving every encouragement and opportunity to those young men who volunteer and are now being organised for training, but also to ensure, when that training is completed, they will go back to their former positions. It will be an obligation on the part of the employer to take back into employment the soldiers who have been training under the home defence scheme."

The mobilisation plan for the organisation and efficiency of a home defence force, released by the Prime Minister, the Hon. P. Fraser, recently, makes provision for a home army of approximately 20,000 officers and men. This force will be clothed, equipped and armed, and will embark on a scheme of training through six stages.

In a reference to the scheme, the Minister of Defence paid a tribute to the Territorial Force of New Zealand, which was prepared for immediate action when war broke out.

"The Territorials played an invaluable part in providing officers and n.c.o.'s for the Expeditionary Force," he said. "Our new scheme gives to young men the opportunity to become officers and n.c.o.'s, not only in the home defence force, but also for the Expeditionary Force overseas."

"There is no doubt that we have a particularly fine type of young man in our Territorial force to-day. This is noticeable on such parades as those of Anzac Day, when the comment regarding their physique was most favourable. I am satisfied that the training these men will receive will make for even more improvement."

The age limit for Territorials was recently altered so that young men of 18 years of age could begin their training. Previously the age was 21. This means that many young men who desire to go into training immediately will be able to do so. Then, by the time they are 21 and wish to enlist for overseas service, they will have completed a good deal of their necessary training.

Rates of pay and allowances for officers, n.c.o.'s and men of the Territorial Force called up for training under the new scheme will be the same as those for members of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. serving in the Dominion.

The two most important features of the new scheme will be (1), the raising, as rapidly as possible, of the general standard of efficiency of troops allotted to the protection of the main ports; (2), clothing, arming and equipping those battalions and sub-units of the National Military Reserve (Class II.) which have been organised for the purpose of supplementing the Territorial fortress battalions; (3), improving the general standard of efficiency of all Territorial units.

The new scheme will begin by June 1, when officers and n.c.o.'s of Fortress battalions of Territorial units will begin a month's intensive training at district Army schools.

## EVERYBODY PLEASED

**T**HE new battle dress seems to please everybody. That does not happen very often in the army. Officers, n.c.o.'s and men alike are enthusiastic about the new uniform, which has been issued to all units of the 3rd Echelon.

"Grand." "Comfortable." "No buttons to clean." That is what the men think of it.

"Smarter." "More suitable for the field." "Warmer." That is the opinion of the officers.

Battle dress, which is worn by all British forces in the field, consists of trousers and a blouse, caught at the waist by a belt. All buttons except those on the shoulder straps are hidden. The trousers can be worn loose or caught at the ankles with pieces of strapped canvas, rather like those of the sailor's fighting kit. Officers and men look alike, and all badges of rank are made as inconspicuous as possible. The blouse cuffs are buttoned at the wrist, and there are several large pockets on the trousers.

As soon as possible, the units of the 1st and 2nd Echelons will be equipped with battle dress, which will be issued to all future units of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Only members of the personnel of the staffs of military camps and establishments will in future wear the familiar serge uniform of tunic and trousers.

A soldier's kit now consists of a comprehensive wardrobe. In addition to battle dress, he is issued with a suit of denims for training and fatigue work; a drill uniform for warm weather; extra serge trousers for warmth when he wears his denims; a heavy overcoat; two pairs of boots; a wide-brimmed felt hat for parades, and a glengarry hat which goes with battle dress. All these in addition to his shirts, socks, and underclothing.

## New Naval Construction

These tables are based on information published in the 1940 edition of the French Naval Annual, "Flottes de Combat." The years of completion are those anticipated before the outbreak of war. Warships of the Royal Australian Navy are included.

DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1940					
Class	No. of ships in Class	Class			Total tonnage for Class
Battleship	2	King George V.	-	-	70,000
Aircraft-carrier	3	Illustrious	-	-	69,000
Light cruiser	7	Dido	-	-	38,150
Destroyer	6	Lightning	-	-	10,140
Submarine	8	Triton	-	-	8,720
Escort vessel	23	Black Swan, Hunt, Parramatta	-	-	21,680
Patrol vessel	3	Guillemot	-	-	1,585
Depot ship	2	Tyne, Hecla	-	-	22,000
54 ships					241,275 tons

DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1941					
Battleship	3	Duke of York	-	-	105,000
Aircraft-carrier	2	Indomitable, Implacable	-	-	46,000
Heavy cruiser	5	Fiji	-	-	40,000
Light cruiser	3	Cleopatra	-	-	16,350
Destroyer	20	Laforey, Napier, Milne, Tribal	-	-	48,875
Escort vessel	3	Erne, Warrego	-	-	3,600
Mine-sweeper	10	Bangor	-	-	?
Depot ship	2	Adamant, Unicorn	-	-	27,000
Mine-layer	4	Abdiel	-	-	10,600
52 ships					297,425 tons

DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1942					
Battleship	2	Lion	-	-	80,000
Aircraft-carrier	1	Indefatigable	-	-	23,000
Heavy cruiser	4	Ceylon	-	-	32,000
7 ships					135,000 tons

### REMARKS

(a) 2 battleships, 4 heavy cruisers, 4 submarines, 10 mine-sweepers had not been ordered before the outbreak of war, and are not included.

(b) No account is taken of a very large number of small craft, such as motor torpedo-boats, trawlers, whalers, drifters, etc., building, ordered, or projected before the outbreak of war, totalling over 100 vessels.

(c) On outbreak of war British shipyards were building:—10 destroyers, 4 submarines 2 small mine-layers, 20 to 24 motor torpedo-boats to the order of foreign governments. On the plea of war emergency, these vessels could be requisitioned and added to the British Navy.

## Arm-bands for Travelling Volunteers

In future all men travelling to the various military camps to undergo their training will wear special arm-bands while they are in civilian clothes. Volunteers for the 3rd Echelon wore them for the first time. These arm-bands are of white canvas, through which runs a red line.

## Don John's Burial Place

Namur has suffered so much from war that little remains of its once beautiful and historical buildings. In 1914 it was razed by the Germans. Once again it has become the scene of fierce fighting. The cathedral, which was completed in 1772, is the burial place of Don John of Austria; nearby is a large military school and an antiquarian museum. Namur is famous for its cutlery. Large quantities of firearms, paper,

tobacco and leather are also manufactured there. The town stands on the banks of the river Meuse and, like Liège, further north on the same river, it is one of the fortresses in Belgium's defence line.

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