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## WAR DIARY

### NEW ZEALAND MEMORIALS

(By O.A.G.)

**N**EW ZEALAND'S four memorials to her soldiers of the last war—at Le Quesnoy, Longueval, Messines and Gravenstafel—are now in the hands of the enemy.

The memorial at Longueval, on the old Somme battlefield, commemorates the heroism of those who fell in the engagement which began on September 15, 1916, in the Division's first great assault on the Western Front. At Longueval an obelisk has been erected where the road leading north from the village crosses the old Switch Trench, about 1,000 yards east of High Wood. It occupies a commanding position on the highest part of the old trench site, and can be seen from many miles away. When the New Zealanders last saw Longueval and High Wood there was little to distinguish them from the rest of the scarred countryside. All that was left of High Wood was a few torn stumps; the village was merely a heap of rubble. Since then the wood has been planted again and some of the old trees have taken new life; the village has been rebuilt.

Soon after reconstruction began in 1919, a temporary church was erected at Longueval. This was made of a Nissen hut to which was added a bell tower, built from the remaining parts of a broken windmill. In the church was a small brass tablet bearing the simple inscription: "To the glory of God and in memory of those of the New Zealand Division who fell in the Battles of the Somme, 1916, 1918."

The Nissen huts of which the Longueval Church was made, were used in large numbers behind the lines during the last war. They were constructed of pieces of curved, corrugated iron, designed so that they could be erected quickly for housing the soldiers.

The memorial at Messines, also an obelisk, commemorates the gallant exploits of the New Zealanders in the capture of that hill and ruined town. Historians consider that the capture of Messines was one of the most perfect tactical exploits of the last war. The town itself was on the crest of a hill. Our front line before the advance, lay in the bottom of the valley below. On the morning of the advance, mines were exploded, blowing great craters in the hill itself and aiding the advance of our men. Tunnellers had been burrowing for years beneath Messines and their exacting work was one of the principal factors of the success of the operations, as the Germans had constructed strong forts on the hill which dominated the countryside for many miles.

Further north from Messines is the New Zealand memorial at Gravenstafel, which overlooks parts of the Ypres Salient and Passchendaele, this last one of the most tragic of all New Zealand's exploits. Here mud and rain combined with the enemy to hold up the advance which, despite great losses, was checked

only because we came against wide stretches of uncut barbed wire entanglements.

The fourth memorial is at Le Quesnoy, where men of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade stormed the ancient walls and captured the town.

Each memorial bears an inscription both in English and in French: "In honour of the men of the New Zealand Division," followed by a particular reference to the area in which the memorial stands. For example, on that at Longueval are the words, "First Battle of the Somme, 1916," and the sentence, "The New Zealand Division, after gaining this position as their first objective, launched from it the successful attack on Flers, September 15, 1916." On the front panel of each memorial is a beautiful design suggestive of Maori carving, showing the words "New Zealand," enclosed in a laurel wreath supported by crossed taiaha. Carved on the base are these words: "From the uttermost ends of the earth."

The Le Quesnoy memorial is in the form of a large panel on which the winged figure of Victory holds a laurel wreath over a symbolical group.

### M.P.'s IN UNIFORM

The Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. R. M. Macfarlane, M.P., has volunteered for service overseas.

There are now eight members of Parliament in uniform. Brigadier Hargest (Awarua) commands the 2nd Brigade. Major Allen (Hauraki) and Captain Lyon (Waitemata) sailed with the 1st Echelon. Captain Grigg (Mid-Canterbury) is with the headquarters of the 2nd Brigade. 2nd Lieut. Hultquist (Bay of Plenty), Sergeant Meachen (Marlborough), Lieut.-Corporal C. F. Skinner (Motueka) and Private T. L. Macdonald (Mataura) are in training. Private Cotterill (Wanganui) is not at present undergoing training.

### Cabling Money to Soldiers

Money may be remitted to soldiers of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. overseas at the rate of £20 a year. Such remittances are subject to exchange at current rates, and 5/- will be charged for cabling. The desired amounts should be paid into the Bank of New Zealand (any branch), and the bank receipt, together with the regimental number and full name of the person concerned, forwarded to Pay Accounts and Base Records, Victoria Street, Wellington. The paymaster will then cable to the person concerned overseas. A soldier may also make the necessary arrangements through the overseas paymaster, who will cable to New Zealand. A soldier may have money remitted from his own Post Office Savings Bank account by arrangement with the overseas payment. Money may be sent by letter instead of cable, but the procedure is the same.

### Personal

Colonel N. S. Falla, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been promoted Brigadier to command the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force Base overseas.

Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Spencer has been promoted to the rank of Colonel. He is to command the 2nd New Zealand General Hospital overseas, instead of the 1st New Zealand Convalescent Depot.

Sir Stephen Allen, D.S.O., has been appointed assistant military secretary at the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force Base, with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. He commanded the 2nd Auckland Battalion during the last war.

Lieut.-Colonel L. G. Goss has been appointed personal assistant to the Chief of the General Staff, Major-General Duigan, C.B., D.S.O., at Army Headquarters, Wellington.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Conway has been appointed Director of Military Training, and Major R. H. Quilliam takes his place as Director of Mobilisation, with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

Major R. A. Hogan has been appointed assistant Director of Mobilisation, Army Headquarters, Wellington.

Captain R. Murray, formerly publicity officer at Army Headquarters, Wellington, is now training with units of the 3rd Echelon, at Trentham.

Lieut. F. R. Fisher, 17th Hussars, has been appointed aide-de-camp to Major-General B. C. Freyberg, V.C., G.O.C. of the 2nd New Zealand Division.

Lieut. Forbes O'Rorke, well-known sheep farmer of Hororata, Canterbury, is in camp at Burnham.

Ken Armour, a political candidate at the last General Elections in Christchurch has volunteered for service overseas, and is training in the military school at Burnham.

A. J. R. Dunn, the well-known Rugby full-back who played for Buller, has enlisted for service.

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