

WAR DIARY

LIGHT ON TRENTHAM

Electric Power and Planting Plans

THERE are now 453 separate buildings in Trentham Camp and several miles of roads linking them together. At night those buildings and roads are lighted by 4,569 electric light bulbs of all sizes.

Trentham is in fact a town housing approximately 7,000 people. Its inhabitants are all in uniform, except for those employed by the Public Works Department, and all male except for the few nurses who staff the small military hospital.

This is not a town of haphazard growth. Hutments may have sprung up almost overnight, but in orderly fashion, and according to a military plan.

Everything is dressed by the right—even the 250 rose bushes which have been planted in geometrical beds along the main entrance road. Soon methodical rows of annuals will add to the decorate scheme; they, too, will fall into line—a line as straight as ranks of parade.

Those 4,569 electric light bulbs which light up Trentham range from lamps of 40 watts to powerful ones of 300 watts. Apart from the units of power required for them, still more is required to drive the various electric machines which have been installed in the camp.

Here are the details:

There are 146 40-watt lamps; 3,142 of 60 watts; 646 of 75 watts; 235 of 100 watts; 328 of 150 watts; 9 of 200 watts, and 63 of 300 watts.

Although there are 255 radio points in the camp, only a few of them are in use. There are 390 heating points and 20 small heating boilers, as well as 27 power motors. The hospital and the dental clinic are responsible for a large proportion of the boilers and motors.

The list of electrical "gadgets" and machines reads like a salesman's catalogue for an important auction. Here they are, all busily operating in kitchens and canteens for the comfort of the men and the efficiency of the camp:

5 electric ranges, 6 hot presses, 4 frigidaires, 12 coffee urns, 1 toaster, 2 water heaters, 4 bread slicers, 4 cake mixers, 3 potato peelers.

If anyone goes unwashed in Trentham, or any other military camp for that matter, it is no fault of the authorities. In the main camp there are 19 ablution sheds. Each shed contains 34 taps and 34 wash-hand basins.

But cleanliness does not end there, because there are five bath houses, some with hot and cold water, the rest just plain cold water. In each hot and cold section there are 50 showers; each cold shower can accommodate 34 men at a

time. This does not include bathing facilities in the hospital or the quarters of the permanent headquarters staff.

Scattered about the camp are 16 fire alarms, with a fully equipped fire brigade ready to spring to instant action should the necessity arise.

Sitting on the lawn opposite Camp Headquarters are two red tubs—so red that everything near them grows dim and drab by comparison. Each tub contains an ornamental shrub. They are a gift from the Centennial Exhibition, which included a grove of silver birch trees. The birches have been planted down Seddal Bahr Road, one of the principal thoroughfares of the camp, and the Camp Commandant has visions of these slender trees forming a gracious avenue between the huts. He hopes, also, to plant ornamental trees down other streets, thus lending colour and variety to the camp generally.

When summer comes flower beds in and about the camp will be gay with some hundreds of gladioli, including many prize varieties grown by Colonel McKillop, of Christchurch, one of the most successful growers in New Zealand. Offers of dahlia tubers suggest that in the autumn also Trentham Camp will be a blaze of colour.

Building at Trentham has not yet ceased. Plans are ready for a giant garage which will house 200 cars of all kinds and a workshop where all repairs will be carried out by the military mechanics.

AIR CHIEF IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE man who has command of the 'planes which are operating against Italy over Libya, Abyssinia, and Eritrea is an Australian, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, K.C.B., C.B., D.S.O., whose headquarters are in Cairo. He is chief of the Middle East Command of the Royal Air Force and his territory ranges from Italian Libya to the frontiers of Syria, which is well within range of his long range Blenheims who have to patrol 500,000 square miles of country. As well as supporting troops, the 'planes of the M.E.C. keep contact with isolated outposts of soldiers, drop food, water, and munitions where they are needed, and raid enemy positions.

Sir Arthur was born in New South Wales, and his flying certificate, No. 72, is the oldest held by any member of the



SIR ARTHUR LONGMORE

Royal Air Force. He was one of the first four naval officers to learn to fly. The training 'planes were lent by a private owner, whose only stipulation was that no flying was to be done on Sundays.

This sturdy Australian was instructor at a flying school in 1912 and trained many of the air aces of the last war. In 1914 he was sent to command the No. 1 Royal Naval Air Service at Dunkirk; later he took part in the Battle of Jutland and saw service in Italy. After the war Sir Arthur Longmore held a high command in Iraq, commanded the Air School at Cranwell, and then in 1939, he took over the training of the whole R.A.F. in Britain. In May he was appointed to the Middle East Command. Sir Arthur has a host of foreign decorations, including two Italian ones presented by the Italian Government for his work on their behalf in the last war when he commanded their Adriatic Group.

NAMES AND PLACES

Sardinia's History

The intensive bombing of Cagliari, capital and chief port of the island of Sardinia, is the first serious attack on this Italian outpost since hostilities began. Sardinia lies off the coast of Italy and helps to form a basin of the Mediterranean which is known as the Tyrrhenian Sea, with Sicily forming the southern boundary. The island, once known for its evil climate, because of malaria, was the granary of Rome in ancient times. More recently it has been famous for its bandits and vendettas, though these have ceased to exist since the formation of roads, the first of which was constructed in 1828. Sardinia's once magnificent forests of cork, oak, and ilex have been greatly depleted, but the cleared land now produces breeding horses and many cattle and sheep. The island is also rich in minerals, and thousands of Italian workmen produce valuable quantities of lead and zinc, lignite, antimony and manganese, as well as some silver, copper, and iron. Granite, marble and pottery clay are also quarried there. The Sardinian people are less affected by foreign admixture than any other race in Europe. They are possessed of a strong sense of honour and hospitality, and have great dignity and courage. The women still spin with the aid of old spinning wheels, and weave their cloth on century-old looms. Tunny, sardine, and anchovy fisheries provide work for many Italians, as the Sardinian men are not fond of the sea.

Many Masters

The island belonged to Carthage until the third century, B.C. It was then conquered in turn by the Romans, the Vandals, the Byzantines, and the Saracens. The Aragonese took it in 1326. They were displaced by the Spaniards, and in 1713 it became an Austrian possession. Seven years later the Duke of Savoy exchanged it for Sicily and took the title

King of Sardinia. In 1861 Victor Emmanuel II. of Sardinia became King of United Italy. Cagliari lies in an excellent harbour in the south of the island. In recent years, since the intense fortification of naval and air bases in the Mediterranean, it has been greatly strengthened by Italy as part of a defensive scheme embracing the island of Pantellaria. Hills encircle the port and the town and lend grandeur to the basin from which the island's products are exported and its only railway begins.

INDEX

<i>Aunt Daisy</i>	44-46	<i>Programmes:</i>	
<i>Books</i>	12-13	<i>Commercial</i>	49-53
<i>Boxing</i>	21	<i>National</i>	26-39
<i>By Dorothy Thompson</i>	9	<i>Overseas</i>	54
<i>Detective Fiction</i>	15	<i>Puzzles</i>	22
<i>Douglas Lilburn Returns</i>	17	<i>Radio Personality</i>	15
<i>DX Notes</i>	54	<i>Sources of Our Slang</i>	18
<i>Editorial</i>	5	<i>Sport</i>	20
<i>Excerpts from Talks</i>	6	<i>"The Marlborough Touch"</i>	14
<i>Exciting Days</i>	16	<i>Things to Come</i>	7
<i>Furies of the Fleet</i>	3	<i>Variety Calling</i>	14
<i>Government in N.Z.</i>	13	<i>War Diary</i>	2-4
<i>In the Programmes</i>	8	<i>Women</i>	40-43
<i>Letters</i>	5, 24	<i>Your Garden</i>	55
<i>Potts' Luck</i>	10	<i>ZB News</i>	47