

WE INTERVIEW MAJOR. S. WEST. A/C.R.E.

" what is the c.r.e.? this is a question we have been asked so often that we decided to carry it bodily "across the river" and ask major west to deal with it. he was busy poring over maps and plans with which his table was littered. nevertheless, he told us to park the body while he cleared a space on the table. * * * lighting his pipe and sitting back, he said that he had noticed some confusion in the use of the abbreviation " c.r.e. " " it is not surprising ", he continued that it is something of a minor mystery; the confusion arises in thinking of the letters meaning a unit, in the first place it is an appointment, that is to say, it refers to a person and his staff. secondly, it is an abbreviation of COMMANDER OF ROYAL ENGINEERS. actually, this is something of a misnomer when applied to new zealand engineers. COMMAND NEW ZEALAND ENGINEERS would be the correct title and probably less confusing to the average person! * * * he then went on to point out that in the n.z.e.f.i.p. there is the c.r.e. of 3rd. div. engineers who has command of divisional engineers which consists of field companies and field park companies. the role of field engineers in this and the last war is sufficiently well known to pass without further comment. * * * the other arm of the engineering service is equally important and is the one we are directly interested in. here again we have the same organization in the c.r.e. and staff, though in this unit slight changes have occurred. on the c.r.e. staff we have lieutenant mann who is works officer and has been stationed at noumea, lieutenant scott, electrical and mechanical officer, and lieutenant brooker who is stores officer in charge of what is known as " c.r.e. stores ". it is these officers that said major west, " i have to thank for working out details of jobs, and party is ing out with painstaking care work such as the organization of the technical stores and other work. * * * our equivalent to field & park companies is WORKS CONSTRUCTION COY. which in turn is divided into bridge and services sections. there is also the WHARF OPERATING COY which, as we know specializes in work that is risky and essential. * * * the duties of C.R.E. include that of technical advisor to the formation commander, estimating requirements of engineers stores, supplies and issues. from this it may be gathered that engineer units, as a body, are called upon to undertake multifarious tasks and have always acquitted themselves with honour, so that around the activities of N.Z.E. there has developed a tradition of which we may all be proud. * * * and now, as large parties of WORKS SERVICES are moving out to undertake another phase of our work, i continued major west, " i should like to convey a personal message to all ranks. we all know that we have to build a hospital; what some of you may not know is that it must be built quickly. the KIWI'S have gone forward to less healthy regions. the WORKS SERVICES role in our fighting the japs while not so direct, glamorous or dangerous is nevertheless essential and important. * * * cont. next col.

* * * a small party has been at DUMBEA valley and good progress made. bulldozers have been busy on the formation of subgrades for roads and levelling of building sites. our immediate task is the creation of a theatre block of four wards of sixty beds, staff accommodation and provision of water and drainage systems. the buildings are all of prefabricated type and advice has been received that they are on their way. * * * other work will have to proceed at the same time maintenance and other work will necessitate a party working at base area. these jobs all have an important bearing on the efficient organisation of the FORCE. * * * you have proved yourselves adaptable, capable and willing to put your best into the work. in asking you for your maximum effort in the tasks that lie ahead, i do so in the belief that you will work together as a team, and in that way, show we know how to do our part. * * * long hours and inconveniences lie ahead of us. * * * they faced us on our arrival and were overcome without bellyaching. i feel confident you will do the same on this occasion. * * * to each and every one i would ask: remember that we exist to render a service to the DIVISION and we are duty bound to do our best for our fellow KIWI'S and their folk back home !

CURRENT TOPICS DISCUSSION.

current topics subject for thursday night was provocative and prolonged until supper time. opinions on ITALY did not run in the same direction and the bulletin itself came in for some discussion on the ground of superficial handling. no effort was made to settle Italy's fate after the war. bulletins for next week have not yet come to hand.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

we wish to advise all our reader that the editor is not, and has not been, a gangster. his face, for which he takes no responsibility, he has tried to live down. he may look like a gangster, talk like a gangster, walk like a gangster, but there the similarity ends. any resemblance to " legs " diamond, " dutch " schultz or alf capone is purely coincidental.

BEAT THIS.

if sgt. george lindsay were to sit down (or stand up) to smoke all his stock of cigarettes he would face 400 yards of cigarettes were they put end for end. estimating twenty puffs in each cigarette, he would have to puff a hundred thousand times before he had finished. AEW'S students taking maths are invited to guess how many smokes he has.

HAND YOUR OPERATICS FOR HOME ISSUE IN TO YOUR ORDERLY ROOM.