

N.Z.E.F. TIMES

A KORERO Report

AT THE end of June *N.Z.E.F. Times*, official newspaper of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force and oldest service newspaper of this war in the Middle East and Mediterranean theatres, celebrated the fourth anniversary of its establishment. In those four years *N.Z.E.F. Times* has recorded the part played by 2 N.Z. Div. and 2 N.Z.E.F. in the changing fortunes of war in the Middle East and Italy and the achievements of other New-Zealanders in the air and on the sea throughout the world. Its principal service, however, has been to keep New-Zealanders abroad informed on national developments and Dominion domestic news generally.

2 N.Z.E.F. was the second of the Dominion and United Kingdom formations in the Middle East to produce its own newspaper. Now there are many—*Crusader*, *Eighth Army News*, and *Union Jack* for the U.K. Forces, *Springbok* for the South Africans, *Fauji Akbar* for the Indians, *Stars and Stripes* for the Americans, *Maple Leaf* for the Canadians, *White Eagle* for the Poles, and others. But when *N.Z.E.F. Times* made a rather timorous appearance in June, 1941, soon after the campaigns in Greece and Crete, only one other service newspaper was being published. This was the *A.I.F. News*, weekly of the Australian Forces, which ceased publication in January, 1943.

N.Z.E.F. Times can go further back than June, 1941, for its origins. Its inspiration was that pioneer of service newspapers, the *Crete News*, which brought out its fourth and final issue during the height of the battle for Crete. Two of the men who assisted Captain (now Major) Geoffrey Cox to produce the *Crete News* formed two-thirds of the staff responsible for the first issue of *N.Z.E.F. Times*, the establishment of which was one of the matters discussed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, during his visit to the Middle East after the campaign in Greece.

The first issue of the paper (June 30, 1941) was of four pages only, of four 5½ x 39 cm. columns. It contained only one advertisement, but after two more issues advertising revenue had so expanded that the size of the paper was increased to eight pages. Newsprint was obtained through arrangement with the British Army Printing and Stationery Service, and this organization, which controlled all stocks of all printing requirements in the Middle East, also made available zinc and chemicals for processing. The printing was done in Cairo at the premises of the S.O.P., owners and publishers of the two English dailies circulated in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, and throughout the Delta area. Due to the shortage of reel newsprint, and in the interests of better reproduction, the printing was done on flat-bed machines.

Less than three months after the first issue, *N.Z.E.F. Times* was increased to twelve pages, still retaining the four-column format, and a full illustrations page covering both Middle East and Dominion news was included. After producing a special Christmas number of



Sunday morning scene at the publishing house, Cairo. The N.C.O. i/c distribution (kneeling) and men of the Army Postal Service take delivery of *N.Z.E.F. Times* wrapped ready for mailing.